

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
)  
PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF A )  
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT TO )  
GENEVA ENERGY, LLC, IN )  
FORD HEIGHTS )

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS taken at the hearing of the above-entitled matter, held at 800 East 14th Street, Ford Heights, Illinois, before Hearing Officer Charles Matoesian, reported by Janice H. Heinemann, CSR, RDR, CRR, a notary public within and for the County of DuPage and State of Illinois, on the 7th day of September, 2005, commencing at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

MR. CHARLES MATOESIAN, IEPA Acting Hearing  
Officer;

MR. ERIC JONES, BOA, Permit Analyst,  
Engineer;

MR. CHRISTOPHER ROMAIN, BOA, Manager;

MR. BRAD FROST, Community Relations.

I N D E X

PROCEEDINGS

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1 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: My name is  
2 Charles Matoesian. I will be the hearing officer  
3 tonight. This hearing is being held by the Illinois  
4 Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Air,  
5 concerning the proposed issuance of a construction  
6 permit to Geneva Energy, Limited Liability Company,  
7 in Ford Heights. Geneva Energy has applied for an  
8 air pollution control construction permit from the  
9 Illinois EPA to restart the tire combustion facility  
10 formerly known as New Heights Recovery and Power  
11 located at 1705 Cottage Grove Avenue in Ford Heights.

12 Geneva Energy must obtain a  
13 construction permit from the Illinois EPA's Bureau of  
14 Air because of resumption of operations and certain  
15 changes to the facility proposed by Geneva Energy,  
16 including the handling of whole-tire fuel. This tire  
17 combustion facility burns tire fuel in a boiler to  
18 produce electricity in an associated steam turbine  
19 generator. The boiler has an hourly capacity of  
20 17,700 pounds of tire fuel or the equivalent of  
21 approximately 700 passenger tires.

22 The boiler is accompanied by ancillary  
23 operations including tire fuel storage and handling,  
24 tire shredding, ash handling, and a cooling tower.

1 The facility is not a major source as defined by the  
2 Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration Rules  
3 found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations, part 52.21,  
4 or the state of Illinois Rules for Major Stationary  
5 Sources Construction and Modification, rules found at  
6 35 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 203.

7 The purpose of this hearing is to  
8 receive comments and answer questions from the public  
9 prior to making a final decision concerning the draft  
10 permit.

11 This hearing is being held under the  
12 Illinois EPA's Procedures for Permit and Closure  
13 Plans regulations found at 35 Illinois Administrative  
14 Code, Part 166, subpart A.

15 Lengthy comments and questions should  
16 be submitted in writing. Written comments will be  
17 accepted through midnight of October 7, 2005. So if  
18 you do not wish to make comments tonight or you have  
19 additional comments or questions, you can submit  
20 those in written form to the Illinois EPA so long as  
21 they are postmarked by October 7, 2005. Written  
22 comments need not be notarized.

23 Finally, you can send those comments to  
24 myself, Charles Matoesian, that's M-a-t-o-e-s-i-a-n,

1 Illinois EPA Hearing Officer; address of 1021 North  
2 Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield,  
3 Illinois, zip code of 62794. And that information  
4 was available on the materials in the registration  
5 desk.

6 At this point I would like to turn  
7 things over to Mr. Eric Jones, who is an  
8 environmental protection engineer with the  
9 Bureau of Air.

10 MR. ERIC JONES: I would like to first thank  
11 everyone for coming out. My name is Eric Jones. I  
12 work for the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air. I was the  
13 permit engineer assigned to this project to draft  
14 this permit for your review at this public hearing.

15 First I would like to start off with a  
16 brief description of the main source at the facility.  
17 It is an existing boiler designed to use waste tire  
18 fool, tire as fuel. The boiler heats water through  
19 steam. The steam is then sent to a turbine, then to  
20 a generator to produce power. The emissions from the  
21 boiler are controlled by three add-on control systems  
22 and are used to reduce emissions from the boiler.

23 First, the NOx emissions are controlled  
24 via an SNCR system that injects urea into the hot

1 flue gases at an appropriate point to reduce the  
2 concentrations of NOx gas. At the elevated  
3 temperatures in the boiler the urea reacts with the  
4 NOx to reduce. A fabric filter is then used to  
5 reduce particulate matter from the flue gas. And  
6 third, a lime scrubber is used to reduce the  
7 hydrochloric acid from the exhaust stream.

8 First, I would like to discuss --  
9 second, I should say -- accommodation of whole tires,  
10 to accommodate whole tires to be allowed to be burned  
11 into the existing boiler. The company is proposing  
12 to install a new conveyor and to alter the feed  
13 system into the boiler to accommodate the placing of  
14 the conveyor to load the tire into the boiler.

15 Second, or third, as part of the restart,  
16 the plant was initially shut down, as everyone knows,  
17 in January of 2004; and the company is proposing a  
18 list of several improvements, enhancements that will  
19 be done prior to the restart of the boiler, including  
20 replacement of CEMS, improvement of or updating of  
21 all control systems that monitor the operation of the  
22 boiler.

23 The company is also proposing to modify  
24 guidelines set for the automatic tire feed cutoff

1 system. And those revisions are consisting of --  
2 They are going to revise the oxygen level monitor  
3 from 7.0 percent to 3.0 percent. They want to reduce  
4 the scrubbant flow from 4500 gallons per minute to  
5 2800 gallons per minute. And the company has also  
6 requested that the combustion time be monitored over  
7 a 60-minute average instead of a 15-minute average.

8 This permit also includes the  
9 consolidation of all plant activities including the  
10 tire shredding operation, tire handling operation,  
11 the boiler operations, the operation of two emergency  
12 generators, and storage tanks associated with those  
13 generators.

14 The emissions from the plant have not  
15 been revised from previous permits except to include  
16 the emissions from the emergency generators into the  
17 allowed emissions from the boiler and to include the  
18 limits on additional specific caps on the operation  
19 of the boiler.

20 In closing, I would like to thank, once  
21 again, thank everyone for coming; and I will turn it  
22 over to Charles.

23 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you. We  
24 will now open the floor for public comments. Any

1 questions, we, the Environmental Protection Agency,  
2 will try to answer your questions. I would also note  
3 that several members of the -- representatives of the  
4 company, Geneva Energy, are present.

5 Okay. The first listed speaker I have  
6 is Mr. Derek Burgess.

7 Please, yes, when you approach the  
8 podium, please state and spell your name for the  
9 record. Please note if you represent an  
10 organization. And please state if you are for or  
11 against the granting of the permit. Thank you.

12 MR. BURGESS: Yes. My name is Derek  
13 Burgess. I am part of Deer Creek Homeowners  
14 Association, which is roughly 1.7 miles from here  
15 south, straight down Cottage Grove.

16 I do have several questions. First  
17 question, how often will EPA inspect this facility?

18 MR. ROMAINE: We don't specify a particular  
19 inspection frequency. The level of inspections  
20 depend on how the facility is performing. At this  
21 point I would say the minimum frequency would be at  
22 least once every three years, but it could be much  
23 more frequent. During the initial operation of the  
24 existing facilities, I believe that we were out there



1 a couple of times a month.

2 MR. BURGESS: Okay. My next question, tire  
3 storage. Will it be outside or inside?

4 MR. ERIC JONES: Tire fuel will be stored  
5 in -- Whole tires will be stored in trailers and  
6 inside buildings.

7 MR. BURGESS: Okay. There will be no  
8 outside tires out of the property?

9 MR. ERIC JONES: That's correct.

10 MR. ROMAINE: No whole.

11 MR. BURGESS: No whole tires.

12 MR. ERIC JONES: Right.

13 MR. BURGESS: Whole tires.

14 MR. ERIC JONES: That's correct, whole  
15 tires. There will be shredded tires, but there will  
16 be no whole tires.

17 MR. BURGESS: You also mentioned your  
18 boiler. What is the pressure and temperature of  
19 boiler, steam pressure and temperature?

20 MR. ERIC JONES: I would have to look  
21 that up.

22 MR. JACK JONES: Steam pressure is about  
23 1170 psi. Temperature, about 970 degrees Fahrenheit.

24 MR. BURGESS: You said 1170 psi?

1 MR. JACK JONES: Yes.

2 MR. BURGESS: And how much was the  
3 Fahrenheit?

4 MR. JACK JONES: 970 degrees.

5 MR. BURGESS: Okay. I was kind of concerned  
6 about that being such a high pressure in such a  
7 residential area. I was wondering was permits given  
8 for that? I mean this is a residential area right  
9 around here for that. At that temperature and  
10 pressure, it's an explosion just waiting to happen,  
11 if anything happens. I'm just wondering where did  
12 you guys get permits to operate that type of boiler  
13 from the, I guess, the city or the state?

14 MR. JACK JONES: Yes. The operating  
15 permits. We do have inspections on the pressure  
16 vessels. And those were designed for that, for those  
17 pressure and temperatures.

18 MR. BURGESS: Okay. And the emergency  
19 generator, what type of fuel will that use?

20 MR. ERIC JONES: Diesel. Diesel fuel.

21 MR. BURGESS: Okay. And it's going to go  
22 through the same scrubber system that the tires will  
23 go through, the tire boiler?

24 MR. ERIC JONES: No.

1 MR. BURGESS: So the diesel fuel will  
2 dissipate in the air, there won't be anything to stop  
3 those emissions?

4 MR. ERIC JONES: They are only emergency  
5 generators. But they are, they emit combustion  
6 emissions.

7 MR. BURGESS: Is there a limit to the time,  
8 how long they can run the emergency generators?

9 MR. ERIC JONES: Yes.

10 MR. BURGESS: And that time may be?

11 MR. ERIC JONES: I believe it's 120 hours.

12 MR. BURGESS: Thank you very much.

13 MR. ROMAINE: Thank you, sir.

14 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: The next speaker  
15 I have listed is Mr. Grant White.

16 MR. WHITE: My name is Grant White. I'm  
17 from the Village of Ford Heights Planning and Zoning  
18 Committee.

19 My first question is what would be the  
20 major health concerns of the citizens of Ford  
21 Heights? Can anybody answer that?

22 MR. ERIC JONES: Emissions resulting from  
23 this are due to combustion of a tire fuel that will  
24 have emissions, typical emissions of any combustion

1 process. They will have NOx, CO, SO2, and VOM in  
2 varying quantities based on the amount of fuel fed  
3 and the rate at which it's fed.

4 MR. WHITE: Which means what? I can't  
5 decipher that exactly. In terms of the health of the  
6 citizens, what degree of safety is there involved in  
7 that amount of emissions?

8 MR. ROMAINE: Well, it involves some  
9 personal judgment of that; but based on the  
10 information we have, it does not pose a particular  
11 hazard or risk. There are facilities elsewhere that  
12 burn tires, there are power plants elsewhere.

13 The thing is that this boiler is  
14 specifically designed to burn tires. It's an  
15 enclosed combustion device designed to maintain high  
16 temperatures to assure effective combustion, and then  
17 the exhaust gas passes through a series of control  
18 devices to then reduce the emissions of pollutants  
19 that are left after combustion. It has the baghouse,  
20 which acts as a filter to go after the particles, the  
21 dust that's formed. It has the SNCR, the selective  
22 noncatalytic reduction system, to address the gas as  
23 nitrogen oxides.

24 If you want a bigger issue, it is simply another

1 source that is contributing to emissions in this  
2 general area and more generally to the greater  
3 Chicago area. There are programs underway that are  
4 working generally to improve air quality in the air.  
5 For example, the question was asked about diesel  
6 fuel. There are programs underway to lower the  
7 sulfur content of diesel fuel. And the goal there is  
8 to reduce the impact of things like buses that are  
9 going around at ground level where people are  
10 actually walking or riding in buses. Whereas when  
11 you look at this facility, it has an elevated stack.  
12 I think if I was -- Again, a matter of judgment,  
13 personal opinion. The thing that is always of a  
14 concern for a facility of this is the management of  
15 the fuel; to make sure that, in fact, they are  
16 complying with applicable guidelines and requirements  
17 to make sure that the potential for a fire is  
18 minimized; and then if a fire does occur, that, in  
19 fact, they are prepared to promptly, properly, and  
20 correctly address it.

21 With those things properly addressed  
22 then, hopefully there never will be a fire; and if it  
23 does occur, it should be put out quickly or people  
24 will be taken out of harm's way.

1 MR. WHITE: Thank you. There is just one  
2 other question. Maybe this is the wrong place to ask  
3 the question, but maybe then they can answer the  
4 question. The economic advantage for the Village  
5 would be what?

6 MR. GEORGE: My name is Emmett George. And  
7 I'm one of the developers of the plant. But the most  
8 direct advantages to the Village from an economic  
9 standpoint is that the plant increases or creates an  
10 industrial tax base which provides a substantial or  
11 high percentage of the Village's tax income on an  
12 annual basis, also provides jobs to individuals  
13 within the community and also nearby communities.

14 MR. WHITE: Just one last question. The  
15 water bills that were left by the other place, are  
16 they going to be taken care of by your company?

17 MR. GEORGE: Any bills that were left by the  
18 other company were discharged in a bankruptcy court.  
19 And we purchased the facility out of the bankruptcy  
20 court. We would not be responsible for the debts of  
21 the previous owner.

22 MR. GEORGE: Thank you. That's all.

23 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
24 Mr. White. The next speaker I have is Mr. Keith

1 Harley.

2 MR. HARLEY: For the record, my name is  
3 Keith Harley. I'm an attorney at the Chicago Legal  
4 Clinic. I'm here tonight on behalf of a group of  
5 nearby residents who are part of a group called South  
6 Suburban Citizens Opposed to Polluting our  
7 Environment.

8 Some of the members of the group may be  
9 giving testimony on their own. They asked me to  
10 review this permit to determine whether or not it's a  
11 legally adequate permit. And I have a few things  
12 that I want to say. Most of my comments I will put  
13 into written form, but there are a few things that I  
14 felt were important to tag for you tonight and for  
15 people who are present.

16 The first thing that I think is very  
17 important for people to realize is that the permit  
18 that they are proposing to issue now in 2005 is not  
19 as protective for the local community as the permit  
20 that was issued in 1999. And the reason it's not as  
21 protective for the local community, even though six  
22 years have gone by and you would expect permits to  
23 get better and not worse, is because of something  
24 that the permit engineer mentioned at the beginning

1 of this hearing, and that is one of the primary  
2 protections that's in place for local residents are  
3 automatic waste feed cutoff provisions in the permit;  
4 where if the facility begins to operate incorrectly,  
5 there is an automatic cutoff of tire going into the  
6 boilers.

7 Now, under the -- For the old  
8 facility, the automatic waste feed cutoffs were set  
9 at a much more sensitive level than they are under  
10 this new permit. Under this new permit, the facility  
11 would be able to operate much longer without  
12 complying with some of the operational and emission  
13 requirements that are imposed on it without that  
14 wastefeed being automatically cut off. That is a  
15 step backward. That's not a step forward for the  
16 local community. Whether you are for or against the  
17 facility, that is a step backward in terms of the  
18 permitting of this facility.

19 Second thing I want people to know is  
20 that this permit is not as protective as the permit  
21 for a similar facility in Connecticut, the Exeter  
22 Energy facility, which is involved in a very, very  
23 similar operation. If you read the Exeter permit, as  
24 I have, you will find that in the Exeter permit,



1     there are many more pollutants that are regulated  
2     than in the permit for this facility. And most of  
3     those things that are regulated are hazardous air  
4     pollutants, the things that in very small amounts are  
5     toxic to people.

6                     So, for example, if you look at the  
7     permit for the Connecticut facility, you find things  
8     like actual emission limits for dioxins and furons,  
9     for lead, for Mercury, for cadmium oxide, for  
10    aluminum metal and aluminum oxide, for chromium, for  
11    iron, for nickel, for PCBs. While this permit  
12    requires them to determine the amount of these  
13    pollutants in their emissions, there are no actual  
14    permit limits imposed for these most hazardous air  
15    pollutants. This permit is not as protective as this  
16    permit could be because it is not equivalent to the  
17    permit for the facility in Connecticut.

18                    Third thing that I think people need to  
19    recognize is that Chris mentioned earlier -- I'm  
20    sorry -- Chris Romaine from Illinois EPA mentioned  
21    earlier that, while this facility operated before,  
22    they were out here a couple times a month. The  
23    reason they were out here a couple times a month is  
24    because that facility violated its permit hundreds of

1 times. It's not just my opinion. I actually have  
2 here the violation notice which was issued by  
3 Illinois EPA against the old facility after it  
4 operated for only a period of six months. Virtually  
5 every meaningful permit term and condition that was  
6 contained in that Illinois EPA permit was violated  
7 from that facility from the time it started  
8 operations until the time it stopped.

9 One of the things that I would want to  
10 know if I lived in this community is what's going to  
11 be different in this plant, how is it going to be  
12 different such that it will not have the same  
13 violations. And I have gone through this permit, and  
14 the answer that seems to be given by the company is  
15 that we are going to combust whole tires and not  
16 scrap tires. And the reason that the old facility  
17 was such a poor performer is because when you combust  
18 shredded tires, it gets in the grates of the boiler  
19 and prevents the heat, which comes from above and  
20 below, from doing an even combustion.

21 So by using whole tires we are going  
22 to get a better system, a system that will actually  
23 comply with what the law requires. But having said  
24 that, the company then asked for permission to

1 continue combusting shredded tires as well at its  
2 sole convenience. It can have shredded tires on  
3 site. It can combust shredded tires. It can combust  
4 entirely shredded tires. That does not solve the  
5 underlying compliance problems that you see when you  
6 look, as we have, at the reports which were prepared  
7 by the old facility, which day after day, month after  
8 month, showed that they were not operating in  
9 compliance.

10 Next thing I want to say, fourth thing,  
11 deals with the issue of best available control  
12 technology. Now, they will tell you that this  
13 facility is using best available control technology.  
14 The problem is that the version of best available  
15 control technology, which is supposed to get better  
16 and better over time, is 1999 vintage. The Illinois  
17 EPA took the same best available control technology  
18 for the old facility and simply plugged it into the  
19 new facility.

20 The Illinois EPA is very honest that  
21 they did not do anything new to determine whether or  
22 not this facility actually meets 2005 best available  
23 control technology. They just took what existed in  
24 1999, which was actually based on a much earlier

1 determination of what best available control  
2 technology is, and plugged that into today.  
3 To me that's not adequate.

4                   There should be a new BACT  
5 determination for this facility just as there has to  
6 be a new construction permit for this facility. And  
7 the primary reason for that is because the weighing  
8 of factors includes good combustion practice. And  
9 good combustion practice is going to be dependent on  
10 the fact that they use whole tires, not scrap tires.  
11 There is a fundamental change in the way this  
12 facility is designed to operate. There should be a  
13 new BACT determination.

14                   Along with that, people in this  
15 community and certainly my clients would insist that  
16 there be new modeling of facility emissions. Now, we  
17 are not talking about modeling about how it's going  
18 to impact air generally in the Chicago area. We are  
19 talking about how our are air emissions from this  
20 facility for the full range of pollutants, including  
21 hazardous air pollutants, how is it going to affect  
22 the communities within one or two miles at the fence  
23 line of this facility? This facility is operating  
24 immediately adjacent to a school and a residential

1 area. And if I lived in this community, I would want  
2 to know based on actual modeling of these emissions,  
3 are there any dangers from things like zinc, which is  
4 a major issue related to the combustion of tires.

5 This brings me to my fifth thing.

6 Illinois EPA has an obligation to be reviewing this  
7 facility in light of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act  
8 of 1964. Illinois EPA gets a lot of money from the  
9 federal government. And when they take that money,  
10 they agree to the federal government that they will  
11 not operate any discriminatory programs. In this  
12 case, especially because we have the pattern of  
13 noncompliance from the previous facility, we have  
14 hazardous air pollutants which are not subject to  
15 limitation in the new permit. We don't have a more  
16 productive up-to-date BACT determination. And we  
17 don't have any modeling of actual facility impacts.  
18 It would be my argument that this facility is not  
19 adequately protective of the local community and is  
20 discriminatory. Those are my comments. Thank you  
21 very much for your time.

22 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Harley.

24 The next speaker I have listed is

1 Katherine Kemp.

2 MS. KEMP: Katherine Kemp.

3 What is the purpose of this hearing?

4 MR. ROMAIN: The purpose of the hearing is  
5 to obtain comments on the application for which a  
6 construction permit has been submitted and to have  
7 comments on the draft permit.

8 A VOICE: Can't hear.

9 MR. ROMAIN: I'm sorry. The purpose of the  
10 application is to hear comments on the project that  
11 has been proposed and to hear comments on the draft  
12 permit that has been prepared.

13 MS. KEMP: Is the idea that ordinary  
14 citizens have enough knowledge to be able to raise  
15 questions that you are going to pay attention to?

16 MR. ROMAIN: You have asked two questions,  
17 and I would say yes to both of them.

18 MS. KEMP: The reason I bring this up is I  
19 have been going to several of these hearings over the  
20 years. And I grew up in Elmhurst. And originally I  
21 got real angry about all this because I thought they  
22 would never build one of these in Elmhurst because  
23 they would know that enough people would come forward  
24 to object. And I felt that here in the south suburbs

1 we were being picked on because the builders and the  
2 developers were gambling on the fact that we would be  
3 ignorant and not know how to raise specific questions  
4 about the technology, that we have -- All of us have  
5 gut feelings about protecting our children and our  
6 own health, but we don't have the technical  
7 knowledge.

8 I once was at a hearing where a woman  
9 had come all the down from way north. It was the  
10 Duke power plant. And she found an obvious, huge  
11 technical error; but she had an engineering  
12 background. I don't have an engineering background,  
13 and I don't know anybody who does frankly. So I  
14 think we are at a terrible disadvantage when we come  
15 to these things compared to another community where,  
16 of course, these things are never placed anyway.

17 One of the things that bothers me most  
18 about this is when they built this plant in the past  
19 we went to the hearing and we came here. And we said  
20 we are worried about fire damage and the threat of  
21 fire because we've read about tire burners and they  
22 all seem to catch fire. And we were told there  
23 wasn't going to be any problems because they were  
24 going to burn shredded tires. Well, as you all know,

1     there was a problem. There was a big fire and the  
2     place was shut down.

3                     Now you are saying there isn't going to  
4     be a problem because they are going to burn whole  
5     tires. So we were either lied to in the past or we  
6     are being lied to now. There seems to me we should,  
7     as citizens who live in this area, we should be very  
8     concerned about the fire, the threat of fire, and  
9     huge fires from any place that's burning tires

10                    It's -- So when are we being told the  
11     truth, shredded or whole?

12                    MR. ROMAIN: They are two different issues.  
13     And I think, in fact, you have been told the truth in  
14     both circumstances. The original design of the plant  
15     burning shredded tires did minimize, change the risk  
16     that was presented for fires.

17                    MS. KEMP: But it caught fire.

18                    MR. ROMAIN: The tire storage facility did  
19     not catch fire. The fire that occurred was, in fact,  
20     in the boiler. And the appropriate action plan  
21     functioned properly. The fire departments were  
22     called, the fire was extinguished promptly; and there  
23     was not a catastrophic fire at the facility. The  
24     tire fuel did not catch on fire. It's unfortunate



1 that happened. And certainly it's appropriate to  
2 check that Ford Heights has determined they have to  
3 be very careful in one of their power outages to make  
4 sure that they are not inadvertently setting fire to  
5 the external boiler because they lose hydraulic  
6 pressure. But that's a very different issue than  
7 storage of tires.

8 I would agree that with the proposed  
9 plans that involve significant -- In fact, as  
10 Mr. Harley pointed out, they could be using entirely  
11 whole tires, that may be an advantage for the  
12 operation of the boiler. It does pose a different  
13 level of concern for the storage of tires.

14 That's why Mr. Marvel is here from the  
15 Illinois EPA's tire program to make sure that the  
16 plant has properly addressed the handling and  
17 management of whole tires.

18 MS. KEMP: Is he going to tell us about  
19 that?

20 MR. ROMAIN: Do you have a particular  
21 question?

22 MS. KEMP: I'm not smart enough to know how  
23 to question that. It just -- I know that I read in  
24 the past when researching the facility before it that

1 they said that fire, tire burners are subject to fire  
2 danger. And we did have a fire. And now you are  
3 saying whole tires, and those were what we were told  
4 at the last hearing that whole tires were a greater  
5 danger than shredded tires.

6 So I guess my question is what is the  
7 Illinois EPA going to do about the storage of whole  
8 fires by the storage of this facility?

9 MR. ROMAIN: Todd, do you want to say  
10 something?

11 MR. MARVEL: Yes, I would be glad to.

12 My name is Todd Marvel. I'm the  
13 manager of the used tire program. Our primary  
14 responsibility in relation to Geneva Energy and  
15 formerly the New Heights facility is to regulate the  
16 used tires that are present at the facility, which  
17 means the fuel. Up until a point where it goes into  
18 the boiler, we are responsible for regulating that.  
19 We have standards under part 848 of 35 Illinois  
20 Administrative Code that specify the management  
21 standards for used tire storage sites.

22 We have inspected the previous facility  
23 at least on a quarterly basis, at least once every  
24 three months. But to get more specific to your

1 question, shredded tires pose a fire hazard and whole  
2 tires pose a fire hazard, either way. Our  
3 regulations are designed to minimize the chance for a  
4 fire and also to minimize the effects of a fire if  
5 one does occur.

6 The advantage here with what Geneva  
7 Energy is proposing is they are proposing to store  
8 whole tires in trailers, which from our standpoint is  
9 the best way to store your fuel prior to introducing  
10 it into the boiler. It's much better than storing  
11 them outside. There is not just a fire hazard with  
12 whole ties, there is also the hazard of mosquito  
13 infestations. The mosquito larvae that you find in  
14 used tires -- If you have used tires out in the  
15 environment and the tires are allowed to accumulate  
16 water, which they will, of course, and organic  
17 matter, you will find mosquito larvae in them.

18 MS. KEMP: Right, the kind that have West  
19 Nile virus.

20 MR. MARVEL: And that is the most common  
21 mosquito larvae that you find in tires is also the  
22 primary carrier of the West Nile virus.

23 MS. KEMP: I know that.

24 MR. MARVEL: There is absolutely a direct

1 link there. We are currently in the middle of a  
2 rulemaking to revise our rules to make them more  
3 stringent. It will actually make it illegal to allow  
4 any used tire in the State of Illinois to accumulate  
5 water, which is extremely stringent. And what this  
6 facility is proposing to do is store their tires only  
7 in fully enclosed trailers.

8 MS. KEMP: How many trailers will they have  
9 on the site then?

10 MR. MARVEL: I think the -- Well, for right  
11 now, I believe they are proposing ten trailers under  
12 their -- See, but they also have a storage limit.  
13 There is a storage limit for used tires. There is  
14 storage limit for the shred.

15 Let me back up a little bit. Used  
16 tires that are shredded on the same site where they  
17 are burned are specifically exempt from our  
18 regulations. However, they are and have been in the  
19 past addressed under the air permit. There is a  
20 limit as to how much they can have there. There are  
21 specifications on how high the pile can be. There is  
22 specifications of exactly where the pile is located,  
23 how much aisle space around the pile so that if there  
24 is a fire, you know, there is means to control the

1 runoff and to fight the fire. So the pile of shred  
2 would not be regulated by part 848 but all the whole  
3 tires would be.

4 MS. KEMP: So this new rule your Agency is  
5 coming up with will only apply to the whole tires?

6 MR. MARVEL: Well, and our current rules.  
7 We have current rules also. We are just revising  
8 them.

9 MS. KEMP: And they won't be grandfathered?

10 MR. MARVEL: That's correct. When the new  
11 rules come into effect, the new rules apply.

12 MS. KEMP: Okay.

13 MR. MARVEL: And actually, what Geneva  
14 Energy is proposing, there would not be a problem  
15 with any rules. As a matter of fact, we prefer that  
16 tires be stored inside trailers. Even at a retail  
17 location, where they have a processing facility come  
18 pick up their tires, it is a much better to have  
19 trailer, to spot a trailer there, throw the tires in  
20 the trailer; and the processing facility can just  
21 come and get the trailer and take it away and leave  
22 the empty trailer. So the chance for a fire is very,  
23 very small.

24 MS. KEMP: You are saying better. Better

1     than what?

2                 MR. MARVEL:   Better than leaving them  
3     outside.

4                 MS. KEMP:    Yes, so what about in a building?

5                 MR. MARVEL:   Well, we prefer --   In a  
6     building is a whole different set of --

7                 MS. KEMP:    There was a building of tires  
8     that caught fire in Indiana a couple years ago.

9                 MR. MARVEL:   I'm not familiar.   I know there  
10    have been several large outdoor tire fires in  
11    Illinois and in Indiana.   In just about any city,  
12    yes.   Unfortunately, that is certainly the case.

13                         And they do propose to store some  
14    tires inside.   And if they do that, they have to do  
15    so only under a tire storage plan that has been --  
16    And they have currently, they have developed a tire  
17    storage plan.   They have also developed a contingency  
18    plan, which we have looked at.   We have had  
19    discussions with them.   And it has to be done in  
20    consultation with all responding fire departments,  
21    which they have had discussions with the fire  
22    department.   Their specifications, it's a relatively  
23    small number of tires that are going to be stored  
24    inside the building because there are certain

1 standards.

2                   You can't store a whole lot of tires  
3 inside a building because you have to maintain the  
4 aisle space between the tires and the interior walls.  
5 There is space between the ceiling and the top of the  
6 tires. And it's not that big of a building where you  
7 can store an enormous amount of tires. So by far the  
8 vast majority of tires will be stored outside in  
9 trailers.

10                   And I, we were just talking about this.  
11 I haven't heard of any fire that's occurred or major  
12 tire fire, not even a minor one, that's occurred when  
13 tires are stored in trailers. For obvious reasons,  
14 you know, it controls the -- A lot of tire fires are  
15 result of arson.

16                   MS. KEMP: The one in Modesto was a lighting  
17 strike.

18                   MR. MARVEL: Yes. That can happen but that  
19 was outside storage.

20                   Certainly from our standpoint, we  
21 prefer that they be stored in trailers and inside  
22 buildings especially if they are whole. You can't  
23 really store them outside safely.

24                   MS. KEMP: And these will be covered

1 trailers with doors and everything that are always  
2 locked?

3 MR. MARVEL: Yes, completely enclosed. They  
4 are proposing to utilize some cages.

5 MS. KEMP: You just said they were subject  
6 to arson. So in a cage, they would be --

7 MR. MARVEL: Well, cages would be for  
8 temporary storage.

9 MS. KEMP: It would be mean some kid would  
10 have to climb the fence.

11 MR. MARVEL: Yes, they would have to climb  
12 the fence.

13 MS. KEMP: Yes. They can do that, kids can.

14 MR. MARVEL: But when you have them in cages  
15 and there is separation between the cages, the fire  
16 would be contained within one cage instead of  
17 spreading. You know, it's obviously better than  
18 being in a pile.

19 MS. KEMP: Okay. And who is enforcing all  
20 these separations and aisles? And I mean you are  
21 trusting the company to always do --

22 MR. MARVEL: Oh, no, we do inspections.

23 MS. KEMP: How often?

24 MR. MARVEL: We have a policy in our program



1 where we inspect major processing facilities, which  
2 this would be one, no less often than quarterly.

3 MS. KEMP: Four times a year.

4 MR. MARVEL: That would be once every three  
5 months. No less often than once every three months.  
6 And if we find problems, then it gets more frequent.

7 MS. KEMP: Thank you.

8 MR. MARVEL: Sure. Thank you.

9 MR. ROMAIN: Thank you, Todd.

10 MS. KEMP: My question is has anybody  
11 measured how -- And somebody else alluded to this,  
12 how close this facility is to schools and homes and  
13 day-care centers and, you know, what distance there  
14 is; and if it's, you know, what is the standard  
15 safety on that and in other communities?

16 MR. ROMAIN: The specific distance has not  
17 been measured. We are trying to protect air quality  
18 at the point of maximum impact, be that a park, a  
19 school, a home. Standards don't change to say that a  
20 day-care is subject to special protection because the  
21 basic standards are already applicable there.

22 MS. KEMP: But children's health is always  
23 affected more by pollution than adults'.

24 MR. ROMAIN: But that's built into the

1 basic ambient air quality standards.

2 MS. KEMP: That it's always -- all the  
3 standards are set up for what would affect children's  
4 health?

5 MR. ROMAIN: In general, the standards are  
6 set up to protect sensitive populations, which --

7 MS. KEMP: Okay.

8 MR. ROMAIN: Certainly many pollutants  
9 means that you are going after protecting children's  
10 health. If the standards were simply set to protect  
11 the health of adults, they wouldn't have to be as  
12 stringent.

13 MS. KEMP: Exactly my point. And I just  
14 wondered what standards would be used and if people  
15 are concerned about the number of children that live  
16 awfully close to the facility. And I don't know what  
17 standard is in the industry.

18 MR. ROMAIN: We are generally concerned  
19 that there are people in the area.

20 MS. KEMP: Yes, real close. Not just by the  
21 air thing. But if there is a fire, which there have  
22 been several under the old facility, I would guess I  
23 might live long enough to see another big fire there.  
24 What would happen then to the health of the children

1 who live near that facility?

2 MR. ROMAIN: Certainly in the terrible  
3 event a major fire occurred, people would have to be  
4 evacuated to protect them.

5 MS. KEMP: Well, children's health is a big  
6 concern to me. Once I started worrying about air  
7 pollution with this whole endeavor that came our way  
8 because of living in the south suburbs, initially I  
9 thought of adults; and I didn't even know that  
10 children are always affected more by pollution than  
11 adults.

12 MR. ROMAIN: Children and then, of course,  
13 the elderly and infirm.

14 MS. KEMP: Well, us old folks don't mind  
15 leaving this world; but we don't want to leave it  
16 with children who are sickly.

17 MR. ROMAIN: We don't want you to leave it  
18 before your time.

19 MS. KEMP: That's all right. I'm willing to  
20 go early if some child is going to be better for my  
21 efforts. Really I had no idea that children were so  
22 severely affected by pollution, and it's scary when  
23 you read about it. It really is.

24 And, of course, so what we are

1 interested in is the threat of fire. We are  
2 interested in the fact that the incinerator in the  
3 past hasn't worked to proper operating conditions.  
4 And we are also real concerned about the storage of  
5 the tires because of mosquitos, as well as all -- and  
6 the fire danger. So it continues to be a concern and  
7 past -- And in the past the facility was not run  
8 properly. We have no assurance that it's going to be  
9 better this time.

10 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
11 Miss Kemp.

12 The next speaker is Mr. Keith Kemp.

13 MR. KEMP: My name is Keith Kemp. I'm with  
14 SSCOPE. I live in Chicago Heights. I have three or  
15 four questions, and I want to follow up on some of  
16 the issues regarding tire storage.

17 And not -- I understand what you tell  
18 us, and this is a big problem with public hearings,  
19 that the company is going to do this and so forth,  
20 that's not what the permit says necessarily. And I  
21 just want to point that out.

22 My first question is related to whether  
23 whole tires relative to this facility are considered  
24 fuel or solid waste.

1 MR. ROMAIN: They are considered fuel.

2 MR. KEMP: When the permit -- In the  
3 original hearing, and if you go back and read it as I  
4 did, we were told that shredded tires were fuel and  
5 that whole tires are managed by the department, who  
6 is in charge, this gentleman here; and that whole  
7 tires are solid waste subject to all of the laws  
8 regarding storage handling, etcetera.

9 So I am quite confused because there  
10 was never a land use hearing. There was never a  
11 zoning hearing regarding this facility because it was  
12 a power plant. And we have been over this before.  
13 Now since we change it -- of course, we built it and  
14 never had that hearing -- and now we are going back  
15 to using solid or whole tires and calling them solid  
16 waste, which is what I call whole tires. Does not  
17 the Illinois EPA consider whole tires solid waste?

18 MR. ROMAIN: Depending on the  
19 circumstances, whole tires have status either as  
20 solid waste or as fuel or, in some cases, as both  
21 fuel and solid waste.

22 The issues that you raised with regard  
23 to a local siting hearing goes to specific provisions  
24 under the Environmental Protection Act. And the

1 Environmental Protection Act specifically excludes  
2 from local siting facilities that are involved in the  
3 storage handling and processing of waste tires.

4 MR. KEMP: In other words, I could have a  
5 warehouse sitting next to an apartment complex if it  
6 was zoned properly, industrial, just with a million  
7 tires.

8 MR. ROMAIN: In terms of the issue of  
9 siting, that would be my reading of the law.

10 Are you aware of anything different,  
11 Todd?

12 MR. MARVEL: Well, I mean it would be  
13 illegal for you to do that --

14 MR. KEMP: Right.

15 MR. MARVEL: -- because you wouldn't be in  
16 compliance with the management standards under  
17 part 848.

18 MR. KEMP: So that's not correct?

19 MR. ROMAIN: We are talking about two  
20 different things. Siting of a pollution control  
21 facility is one particular requirement under  
22 Illinois' environmental law for certain types of  
23 facilities. Compliance with requirements for proper  
24 management and handling of waste tires and other

1 requirements applies to --

2 MR. KEMP: But this is not a pollution  
3 control facility?

4 MR. ROMAIN: No.

5 MR. KEMP: That's why we don't seem to think  
6 that there are any risks involved?

7 MR. ROMAIN: That's --

8 MR. KEMP: In the handling of whole tires.

9 MR. ROMAIN: No. That's a different issue.  
10 No. You could have certainly risks at facilities  
11 that are not pollution control facilities. The idea  
12 of linking risk with pollution control facilities is  
13 an arbitrary connection.

14 MR. KEMP: Well, tires, of course, have a  
15 great risk in terms of fire hazard, in terms of  
16 storage. So any land use that you would put whole  
17 tires, other than some of the health risks from West  
18 Nile virus -- get that all out -- would certainly be  
19 of concern, fire risk. And according to the issues  
20 here --

21 MR. ROMAIN: I guess I -- Fire risk is  
22 present at different types of facilities. There can  
23 certainly be risks at manufacturing facilities.

24 MR. KEMP: No. That's why there is a law

1 regarding the handling and storage and distribution.

2 MR. ROMAIN: No. I'm just saying generally  
3 manufacturing facilities not even engaged in tires  
4 can pose significant fire risks. Landfills can pose  
5 fire risk. Coal storage piles, coal mines.

6 MR. KEMP: Oh, no question. That's why they  
7 are not next to schools and homes. That's why we  
8 don't place pollution control facilities in this kind  
9 of siting. And somewhere we bypassed the process is  
10 all I'm saying.

11 MR. ROMAIN: I can again comment that that  
12 is not the role of pollution control siting law, that  
13 is the role of local zoning to deal with those  
14 matters.

15 MR. KEMP: Okay. I just feel there was a  
16 violation somewhere along the way in terms of that  
17 issue.

18 Why did Geneva Energy request -- This  
19 is point two. And I refer to section 4.1. Of  
20 course, some of you don't have the permit in front of  
21 you. But let me just briefly read it. Why Geneva  
22 Energy requested that the permit refer to applicable  
23 requirements of 35 Illinois Administrative Code 848  
24 and not include separate whole tire management



1 conditions?

2 And some of those, of course, are  
3 outlined here in terms of any storage pile  
4 dimensions, etcetera. Near power lines, those kinds  
5 of things. If you store tires apparently there are  
6 restrictions, and they are not mentioned in the  
7 permit. But why does Geneva Energy want these  
8 conditions not to be followed or an exception to  
9 those conditions?

10 MR. ERIC JONES: What conditions do you  
11 reference?

12 MR. KEMP: 4.1 under the point regarding the  
13 draft permit. Draft rule, These provisions of draft  
14 include, among others, the following: Specific  
15 outside storage pile dimensions, setback requirements  
16 from overhead power lines -- This is for the storage  
17 of tires. -- buildings and vegetation. Development  
18 of contingency plans, certification of submittal of  
19 tire storage plan. I believe it's on page 4-2 in the  
20 permit application, 4-2. 4-1, 4-2. At least the  
21 copies I got out of the Chicago Heights Public  
22 Library.

23 So my question for the company is why  
24 aren't these conditions going to be complied with if

1 they are part of the law? I don't understand why  
2 they want an exception to that in terms of storage.

3 And then I'm going to move into the  
4 storage of tires, which is also outlined in the  
5 permit. Not what they say and what you gentlemen  
6 say, but what the permit says. Do you read those  
7 conditions?

8 MR. ERIC JONES: Yes. I'm just trying to  
9 reference what you were talking about.

10 MR. KEMP: Okay. And they want exemptions  
11 to these rules, exception I should say, to these  
12 rules in terms of whole tire management conditions?

13 You can't have tire piles apparently  
14 next to power lines, next to buildings, or 1,000 -  
15 5,000 feet away.

16 MR. ROMAIN: The application was not  
17 requesting exemption from 848.

18 MR. KEMP: Okay.

19 MR. ROMAIN: The application was requesting  
20 clarification between what types of storage was being  
21 addressed by 848.

22 MR. KEMP: Right.

23 MR. ROMAIN: And what types of storage was  
24 being addressed by provisions in the permit. Because

1 shredded tires is not currently addressed by the  
2 848 rules, the permit establishes specific  
3 requirements that apply to storage of shredded tires,  
4 which, in fact, are very similar to the requirements  
5 under 848 but are not those requirements directly.  
6 Because, in fact, 848 says this provisions does not  
7 apply to shredded tires.

8 MR. KEMP: Okay.

9 MR. ROMAINE: So this was a matter of  
10 clarification.

11 MR. KEMP: They are clarifying that. It is  
12 not clear, if this is the permit application, it's  
13 not clear to me, maybe it is to some people, but --

14 MR. ROMAINE: It was also commenting that  
15 there were draft regulations that were being worked  
16 on. They were concerned that there might be conflict  
17 between the proposed draft permit.

18 MR. KEMP: Okay. It says, Geneva Energy  
19 requests the permit refer to the applicable  
20 requirements and not including separate whole tire  
21 management conditions.

22 Does that mean they do not want whole  
23 tire management conditions? I mean I'm just -- I  
24 read it literally. I'm not a permit --

1 MR. ERIC JONES: I believe by that statement  
2 they are requesting for it not to be in the air  
3 permit. They are still subject to those rules, just  
4 that I believe they did not request them in the air  
5 permit.

6 MR. KEMP: So they do have to comply --

7 MR. ERIC JONES: With 848.

8 MR. KEMP: -- with all 848 conditions  
9 regarding. Are they listed somewhere? They were not  
10 in the permit. I didn't see them.

11 MR. ERIC JONES: This permit only addresses  
12 air emissions sources primarily.

13 MR. KEMP: Because we didn't have a land use  
14 hearing and, therefore, we don't address those  
15 issues?

16 MR. ROMAIN: No.

17 MR. KEMP: No?

18 MR. ROMAIN: Because provision 848 rules  
19 are available from the Agency, from the Pollution  
20 Control Board, from the Internet. Copies of those  
21 rules are readily available. If you want a copy, we  
22 can make them available.

23 MR. KEMP: I see. They are in the  
24 Administrative Code.

1 MR. ROMAIN: Yes.

2 MR. KEMP: And you have reviewed them. And  
3 in terms of this facility the piles of tires and so  
4 forth would be in compliance? Has someone reviewed  
5 them?

6 MR. ROMAIN: When you say the piles of  
7 tires --

8 MR. KEMP: 848 law requirements, has someone  
9 reviewed them relative to the way they are going to  
10 operate this plant and to see that they meet 848  
11 requirements?

12 I don't mean to belabor it. But the  
13 law is the law. And whole tires scare me after  
14 Modesto where they had to have people --

15 MR. MARVEL: Well, Modesto was a --

16 MR. KEMP: Lightning bolt.

17 MR. MARVEL: -- an unbelievably large pile  
18 of 45 million whole tires outdoors. And this is --

19 MR. KEMP: This is only a million and a  
20 half.

21 MR. MARVEL: I think, yes, that is the  
22 largest tire pile in the United States.

23 MR. KEMP: There weren't homes and schools  
24 close by, though.

1 MR. MARVEL: Right.

2 MR. KEMP: They had it out in the field out  
3 in the country.

4 MR. MARVEL: Right. So part 848 is  
5 35 Illinois Administrative Code, addresses storage of  
6 used tires. And hundreds of used tire storage sites  
7 in Illinois are regulated by the very same standards.

8 MR. KEMP: Right.

9 MR. MARVEL: Looking at what's written in  
10 the draft air permit, looking at the draft tire  
11 storage plan that the facility has created, as well  
12 as the contingency plan, if they were to operate the  
13 facility within those guidelines, they would be in  
14 compliance with part 848; but we certainly, you know,  
15 just don't just take that word for it, that's why we  
16 do inspections.

17 MR. KEMP: Did you read the part where --  
18 and this is part 4.1 and 4.2 -- where the permit  
19 allows a maximum of 20,000 tires, whole tires, on  
20 site?

21 MR. MARVEL: Yes.

22 MR. KEMP: Which is my next point. That's  
23 1,560,000 passenger tires. I calculate it to  
24 3,000 -- 3 million square feet. The whole tire

1 stockpile building that's being proposed would only  
2 hold in my calculation at 10 feet high, which must be  
3 again, 848 rule, because it's inside. That's 80,000  
4 square feet.

5 So my question is if you are going to  
6 permit them to store 3 million square feet, where is  
7 the other 2,400,000 square feet of tires going to go?  
8 The ten trucks only hold about 10,000 tires, that's  
9 insignificant.

10 MR. MARVEL: Right. Yes. That 20,000  
11 storage limit I believe is for all tire material.

12 MR. ERIC JONES: Yes.

13 MR. MARVEL: Including the shred.

14 MR. KEMP: But it doesn't say that.

15 MR. ERIC JONES: Tire fuel.

16 MR. MARVEL: Tire fuel, which includes the  
17 shred. Regardless, keep in mind, part 848 has  
18 financial assurance requirements.

19 MR. KEMP: Oh, that makes it secure. What  
20 do you mean?

21 MR. MARVEL: Well, I will explain it. The  
22 whole tires are regulated under part 848. And if you  
23 have -- Any facility that has more than 5,000  
24 passenger tires --

1 MR. KEMP: Right.

2 MR. MARVEL: -- or passenger tire  
3 equivalents must have -- They must establish  
4 financial assurance. And that financial assurance  
5 establishes a limit to what they can accumulate on  
6 the site. So if they were to have, you know,  
7 10,000 tires -- Or if they were to set their own  
8 limit --

9 Basically if they can set their own  
10 limit, obviously they can't go higher than 20,000  
11 because that's what the air permit says. But if they  
12 say 10,000, that they are going to have at the most  
13 10,000 tires there, then they have to establish  
14 financial assurance and they cannot exceed that  
15 10,000 or they would be out of compliance.

16 MR. KEMP: But that's fine. And I mean they  
17 could raise money. And I'm a capitalist so we could  
18 get up to the point where a million and a half tires  
19 were practical to have on site.

20 MR. MARVEL: Sure.

21 MR. KEMP: I want to know where those  
22 additional tires are going to be stored. This  
23 building cannot store them. Ten trailers are not  
24 going to store them.



1 MR. MARVEL: They would, obviously, have  
2 many more trailers there.

3 MR. KEMP: I guess.

4 MR. MARVEL: Many more trailers in their  
5 designated storage area.

6 MR. KEMP: No, but I mean how many  
7 trailers -- Now, do you regulate trailers with tires  
8 in them in terms of they could have 500 trailers out  
9 there?

10 MR. MARVEL: We regulate used tires no  
11 matter where they are at.

12 MR. KEMP: What's to prevent them storing  
13 them on the pad outside, whole tires? There's  
14 nowhere in this permit does it say that they can't  
15 store whole tires outside on the ground.

16 MR. MARVEL: Well, part 848 says that.

17 MR. KEMP: You cannot store --

18 MR. MARVEL: Part 848, the way we have them  
19 currently written and will be passed is that they  
20 will not be allowed to accumulate water. Therefore,  
21 they can't be --

22 MS. STEINHOOR: Beth Steinhour. The air  
23 permit does state that whole tires have to be stored  
24 within trailer -- transport vehicles or within a

1 building.

2 MR. KEMP: But we could have five -- We  
3 could have 500 trailers out there.

4 MS. STEINHOOR: No.

5 MR. KEMP: I'm not saying that's good bad or  
6 indifferent, I'm just saying --

7 MS. STEINHOOR: No. Because there is  
8 certain aisle space distances that you have to have.  
9 So you can't --

10 MR. KEMP: Are they all closed?

11 MS. STEINHOOR: Yes.

12 MR. KEMP: Closed vans?

13 MS. STEINHOOR: Yes. And under 848 they  
14 have gone beyond the regulatory requirements because  
15 under 848 the state says, yes, you can store whole  
16 tires in a pile; but Geneva Energy has made the  
17 decision that they don't want to do that, they want  
18 the community to be comfortable that they are going  
19 to take --

20 MR. KEMP: So, in fact, the law does state  
21 that 848 --

22 MS. STEINHOOR: But the air permit prohibits  
23 them from doing that. Their air permit states they  
24 cannot do that.

1 MR. KEMP: The air permit that's being  
2 issued --

3 MS. STEINHOOR: Yes.

4 MR. KEMP: -- does not allow outside storage  
5 of tires.

6 MR. ERIC JONES: As drafted. The permit  
7 that is drafted.

8 MR. MARVEL: Outside storage of whole tires.

9 MR. KEMP: Okay. Last question. I looked  
10 at the process of transporting these tires into the  
11 boiler, that was where the last major fire according  
12 to the assistant fire chief of Chicago Heights that  
13 we had that big fire that shut them down for four  
14 months; the shredded tires, it was back into the  
15 conveyor system. And so my question is why -- Why  
16 do we have a duplicate system? You know, I'm a  
17 businessman and it seems not economical to have two  
18 systems, one that you maybe are going to use and one  
19 you are not going to use; plus the fact that you  
20 could mix and match the whole tires with the shredded  
21 tires.

22 It's my understanding in the boiler  
23 that the major problem, and having studied some of  
24 the other facilities that no longer exist, that in

1 order to get good air pollution control you need  
2 consistency in range of heat, temperature. And one  
3 of the biggest problems in the boilers is consistency  
4 with feeding of tires. So why would you want to --  
5 If you were going to whole tires, is that a better  
6 system in terms of getting uniform heat so that the  
7 urea works more consistently at certain temperatures  
8 and the boiler doesn't go cold?

9 I mean I'm asking, that's what I'm  
10 asking the company, whether that's the reason they  
11 have whole tires that they can, you know, only mix  
12 occasionally; or what's the reason for that? Anybody  
13 know? Economics?

14 MR. BROWN: My name is Matt Brown. The name  
15 of the company I'm with is Powered Engineers  
16 Collaborative. We are headquartered in Chicago, and  
17 we have ancillary offices in Milwaukee. And our --  
18 And I'm sorry. Our basic business is power plants  
19 and large facilities. For example, we are working on  
20 McCormick Place, the new expansion.

21 When this particular developer wanted  
22 to reactivate this plant, they asked us to get  
23 involved and look at some of the things. And we  
24 looked particularly at the violation history. We

1 looked at the original permit. We looked at the  
2 process to try to understand why this plant had had  
3 as many violations such that the Illinois EPA had to  
4 be here twice a month in the previous startup.

5 And what our opinion was after looking  
6 at the process and looking at the configuration of  
7 the boiler was that when you shred the tires, the  
8 steel belting in the tires is chopped up into finer  
9 pieces. Those finer pieces then wedge into the  
10 grates on which the shred tire is being burned. The  
11 process of burning in this is it's on a vibrating,  
12 inclined grate. And you bring your combustion air up  
13 through -- Part of it is brought up through the  
14 bottom, and a significant part of it.

15 And what would happen at this plant  
16 is that they would get enough clogging of that grate  
17 that it would create such additional pressure that  
18 the fan that was installed couldn't overcome that  
19 pressure so that there would be inadequate oxygen for  
20 combustion in the process. We concluded that the  
21 boiler -- We went back and contacted the original  
22 boiler vendor. And we discovered that the boiler had  
23 actually been designed to burn whole tires.

24 MR. KEMP: Right.

1 MR. BROWN: And not shredded tires. That  
2 was a decision that had gotten made at some point in  
3 this process. So we recommended that in order to  
4 prevent the clogging, because now we would be dealing  
5 with much bigger -- and I will call it for lack of  
6 better terminology -- globs of steel belting. Okay.  
7 That couldn't clog the grate. Thereby we would  
8 ensure that combustion was taking place as it should.

9 Part of the other problem was, and I  
10 think it was mentioned by another member of the  
11 audience here, that they saw the O<sub>2</sub> limits had been  
12 reduced from the original permit. And the reason for  
13 that is in order to -- What you are always trying to  
14 do is you are trying to ensure complete combustion.  
15 That's how you get your value out of the tires in  
16 terms of its fuel value.

17 MR. KEMP: Yes.

18 MR. BROWN: Its ability to make steam, its  
19 ability to generate power. If you set a limit of  
20 7 percent O<sub>2</sub>, what you are doing is you are feeding  
21 too much air, too much excess air. This increases  
22 NO<sub>x</sub> quantities. It increases the formation of the  
23 species, some of which were referenced by one of the  
24 other --

1 MR. KEMP: Nickel.

2 MR. BROWN: -- individuals. So what it's  
3 better to do is it's better to burn the tires  
4 efficiently with this lower percentage 02.

5 Now that has several other things that  
6 happened when you do that. You reduce the quantity  
7 of air and flue gas that's flowing through this  
8 process. And by doing that, you increase the  
9 effectiveness of the pollution control equipment, the  
10 SCR, the bag, the fabric filter baghouse, and the  
11 scrubber. And that's why we reduce those quantities.

12 And by doing this, we also increase the  
13 capability of the fan. So the fan can take care of  
14 any fuel excursions that might occur and make sure  
15 that there is enough combustion air there to do the  
16 job. I don't know if that helped or --

17 MR. KEMP: No, that helped. But what you  
18 are saying is there would be a more uniform  
19 temperature. My question is why you have the  
20 shredder to begin with to confuse the issue.

21 MR. BROWN: I'm sorry. I can't respond to  
22 that because I don't know why they did what they did.  
23 There were a lot of things.

24 MR. KEMP: But you think that whole tires

1 burn more efficiently than shredded tires.

2 Efficiently in the sense of more uniform heat, so the  
3 pollution control equipment will work better.

4 MR. BROWN: Oh, yes.

5 MR. KEMP: Is that true at Exeter and  
6 Modesto do you know?

7 MR. BROWN: I can't answer that at this  
8 point because I'm not familiar -- I hope the Illinois  
9 EPA has looked. Those are the only two plants that  
10 are left. All the rest of them have burned up and  
11 gone away.

12 MR. KEMP: That's my last question as to how  
13 that operates.

14 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Kemp.

16 The next speaker is Dwayne Mitchell.  
17 No. Okay. Mr. Mitchell, Dwayne Mitchell, not here?  
18 Okay.

19 Then I have next is Mr. Leon Norwood.

20 A VOICE: He's coming right back.

21 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. I will  
22 save him, and then I'll go to Charles Dieringer.

23 A VOICE: Right. Thank you.

24 MR. DIERINGER: Yes. Charles Dieringer



1 resident of Chicago Heights. And I was at the  
2 original siting hearing a few years back.

3 I did look at the permit. And I had  
4 some questions about some figures in table G called  
5 uncontrolled emissions. It talked about zinc at  
6 4.9 tons per year.

7 MR. ERIC JONES: Are you talking about the  
8 application or the --

9 MR. DIERINGER: I think it's in the  
10 application, 2.4.4. But anyway, I was wondering what  
11 the term uncontrolled emissions, how those figures --  
12 And the other figure that really stood out was 2,142  
13 tons per year of sulfur dioxide. That seems like in  
14 a table those were pretty significant figures, and I  
15 was wondering -- Apparently they looked at these  
16 other two plants that burn whole tires, that was sort  
17 of the impression I got from reading in that area.  
18 The one in Sterling, Connecticut, Exeter.

19 MR. ERIC JONES: The maximum uncontrolled  
20 emission rate is the emission rate prior to the  
21 control system.

22 MR. DIERINGER: Okay. During the time, the  
23 startup times, that's what we are talking about?

24 MR. ERIC JONES: No.

1 MR. DIERINGER: No.

2 MR. ERIC JONES: No. There is the control  
3 system is there to reduce emissions from the gas  
4 stream. What these uncontrolled emission rates  
5 represent is what it would be if those control  
6 systems were not there. And so what you have in the  
7 next column over is the controlled emission rates.

8 MR. DIERINGER: Okay. Okay. But it's sort  
9 of like an automobile engine when it first starts you  
10 up, it's cold; not referring to that?

11 MR. ERIC JONES: No. This is preheated.

12 MR. DIERINGER: Before the fuel is even  
13 applied?

14 MR. ERIC JONES: Yes.

15 MR. DIERINGER: Okay. As far as how were  
16 these figures arrived at because it sounded like  
17 maybe they came from these other two plants, the one  
18 in Modesto, they were using those whole tire plants  
19 and they were using that to justify -- not re-  
20 reviewing these figures or whatever the basic how --  
21 I mean you don't have devices that measure these  
22 things I don't believe.

23 MR. ERIC JONES: The emission rates are  
24 based on per million Btu, and there is a certain TU

1 value given to the fuel.

2 MR. DIERINGER: Okay.

3 MR. ERIC JONES: So the corresponding --  
4 The corresponding hourly emission rates are based on  
5 the maximum number of Btus that the system can  
6 generate.

7 MR. DIERINGER: Okay.

8 MR. ERIC JONES: So then you have the  
9 uncontrolled and then you have controlled  
10 efficiencies for the system that they believe will  
11 have this reduction effect on the emissions, and  
12 that's how you get your controlled emissions is what  
13 they are. They are limited to the controlled  
14 emission rate, not the uncontrolled.

15 MR. DIERINGER: How does that relate to  
16 impact on our environment, this uncontrolled figure?  
17 Is this something that we can anticipate the release  
18 of this to in our environment; or is this something  
19 that will be caught by the baghouse and be disposed  
20 of? For instance, the 4.9 tons of zinc, is that  
21 something that will escape the system?

22 MR. ERIC JONES: No. The controlled  
23 emission rate that you see in the permit --

24 MR. DIERINGER: Right.

1 MR. ERIC JONES: -- is what is expected to  
2 be emitted into the atmosphere after control.

3 MR. DIERINGER: Okay.

4 MR. ERIC JONES: That said, as long as the  
5 control system is properly maintained and operated,  
6 you should not see any uncontrolled emission rates.

7 MR. DIERINGER: Right.

8 MR. ERIC JONES: So and then -- Okay. They  
9 did talk about replacing the baghouse and the  
10 components. Is that something that's inspected  
11 regularly, the condition of the present baghouse? I  
12 mean it sounded like that is going to be part of the  
13 upgrade is to replace the baghouse that was in one of  
14 the earlier.

15 MR. ERIC JONES: I believe they are  
16 replacing the bags in the baghouse.

17 MR. BROWN: Can I? Matt Brown again. Can  
18 you explain -- I think it would be helpful for  
19 everybody if you would explain what CEMS is and the  
20 function of CEMS within the plant, the continuous  
21 emission monitoring system, so that people would  
22 understand how these things are examined and how you  
23 control the operations of the facility.

24 MR. ERIC JONES: The system the company has

1 in place are called continuous emission monitors.  
2 They actually electronically analyze the gas stream  
3 coming out of the system and verify what  
4 concentrations there might be in the gas stream based  
5 on ppms, gas flow. You get emission rates. There is  
6 limits within the permit that say that if you go  
7 above this, you know, you are in violation of the  
8 permit.

9 Even beyond the hourly emission rates  
10 and annual emission rates, there are ppm limits on  
11 several -- and opacity limits on the system also.  
12 The system also monitors opacity. So if something  
13 were -- If they were to incur like an excess  
14 emission, they would know it. The system records it  
15 and it feeds into a report.

16 MR. BROWN: And it's reportable to Illinois  
17 EPA.

18 MR. ERIC JONES: Yes. Any exceedances is  
19 reportable to us.

20 MR. DIERINGER: I had one final comment or  
21 concern about the cleanliness of the tires. I work  
22 in the local streams around here as a volunteer, and  
23 we have got tons of tires coated with mud. You find  
24 them picked up along the road that way. I'm

1     wondering, is there any kind of visual inspection and  
2     requirement that the tires coming into the plant have  
3     been cleaned and any other unrelated debris is  
4     removed?

5                     I couldn't really see anything of that  
6     nature, but we weren't really dealing with that part  
7     of it maybe. The fuel supply, as far as the tires --

8             MR. ERIC JONES: They do inspect tires as  
9     they come in because they -- But I'm not sure if  
10    they inspect them for mud and stuff like that.

11            MR. JACK JONES: Okay. My name is Jack  
12    Jones, general manager at the facility. We do have  
13    certain, certain truck loads of tires that come in  
14    are inspected and have potential for resale.

15           MR. DIERINGER: Okay.

16           MR. JACK JONES: If they have a certain  
17    amount of tread on them, they will be put aside and  
18    not shredded or incinerated. And we encourage groups  
19    that pick up tires and bring to us, you know, we  
20    charge them to bring the tires in to us, if we get --  
21    We don't want dirty tires. It's hard on our system.

22           MR. DIERINGER: Sure.

23           MR. JACK JONES: So if they do that, we  
24    charge them more. So if they do that, it's to their

1 advantage to clean them before they get to the site.

2 MR. DIERINGER: Thank you very much.

3 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you very  
4 much, Mr. Dieringer.

5 The next speaker then is Mr. Leon  
6 Norwood.

7 MR. NORWOOD: Good evening. Leon Norwood,  
8 South Suburban Citizens Opposed to Pollute your  
9 Environment. I have been a community activist now  
10 for about 25 years. I done been to every meeting  
11 that Mr. Romaine have sit on. Now, Mr. Romaine, a  
12 lot of stuff that you have said tonight you said  
13 before. And all of it -- I'm not saying you lying.  
14 But all of it turned out to be false. We had rats.  
15 The asthma rate in Ford Heights went up 100 percent  
16 because of that tire facility in this area and in  
17 this town. The hospitals was full of kids, ladies,  
18 and everybody had asthma. And everybody was sick.  
19 We had rats. I came out here and inspected myself.  
20 We had rats running around everywhere.

21 This guy said he going to -- You going  
22 to have trailers, and you going to have stalls. But  
23 how high is you going to stack them trailers that  
24 hold that many tires? You got to stack trailers real

1 high to hold that many tires. I know.

2 And it's too close to the residents and  
3 the school in the first place. We said that last  
4 time. Them citizens got sick. This company going to  
5 have a lawsuit. I wouldn't be surprised they have a  
6 lawsuit in a year from citizens in this town and the  
7 surrounding area. And we going to have fires, ain't  
8 no doubt about it. Tires is tires. Something going  
9 to happen period.

10 And what is the benefit to the people  
11 in Ford Heights and the villages? Are the Villages  
12 going to get new fire trucks? How many jobs are the  
13 villages going to have? Is the people going to be  
14 shipped in and the citizens left out in the cold?  
15 And how many front-end loaders and equipment and  
16 machines that you all going to have out here?

17 And another thing, I'm an engineer  
18 inspector for Cook County highway. I build roads and  
19 bridges. I built this road out here in front of this  
20 tire factory. And when we built that road, every  
21 time a truck with rain or snow, the street is dirty  
22 with black tire tracks coming out of here from the  
23 tires being burned.

24 I seen so many car accidents, because



1 when they get in front of this company here, they  
2 slide because the semitrucks coming out here with all  
3 of them, all the stuff on their tracks, on their  
4 wheels, you know, from the tires and stuff. You got  
5 to have something to clean that up with.

6 And what about the kids? You know,  
7 last time them kids had to close them windows up in  
8 the summertime in this school here if the air  
9 conditioning -- now, look at here, this air  
10 conditioning is not working. Can you imagine you  
11 burning tires down here, this room closed? It's hot.  
12 It's hot. Tires and pollution in the air comes down.

13 And that's another thing. People have  
14 to wash their cars sometimes three times a day  
15 because of that tire factory. Once the stuff come  
16 out them stack, that smoke stack, it comes down. It  
17 just don't all fly away. And people have to  
18 eliminate their gardens last time that company opened  
19 up. People had gardens out here. They couldn't even  
20 keep the food that they grewed out here. I'm telling  
21 you what I know. And we going to have the same  
22 problems all over again. Thank you.

23 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
24 Mr. Norwood.

1                   The next speaker is Ladell Jones.

2                   MR. LADELL JONES:   Ladell Jones.   I'm just a  
3   resident of Ford Heights with some concerns.   They  
4   were talking about the economic development of  
5   Geneva.   Question I have is when you applied for your  
6   permit from the Village, did you ask for a tax  
7   abatement?

8                   A VOICE:   Are you directing to the company?

9                   MR. ROSE:   I'm Ben Rose, Geneva Energy.   No.  
10   The answer is no.   Ben Rose, Geneva Energy.

11                  MR. LADELL JONES:   No tax abatement?

12                  MR. ROSE:   Tax abatement, no.

13                  MR. LADELL JONES:   As far as the first five  
14   years, you don't pay tax to the community.

15                  MR. ROSE:   We asked for nothing.   We asked  
16   for no new subsidy whatsoever from the Village, from  
17   the state, from the federal government.   This will be  
18   the first time this plant has been run with no  
19   subsidies.

20                  MR. LADELL JONES:   Right.   Okay.   And as far  
21   as your hiring system for the men and women living in  
22   Ford Heights, what is the processes for the hiring  
23   system for the men and women living in Ford Heights?  
24   I know you have to have the educated or experienced

1 in the position, but how many people on board are you  
2 trying to educate or send for training prior to your  
3 opening so they would be able to fill in positions?

4 You know, permanent position in your company, not  
5 just, you know, small labor positions, because a lot  
6 of time your companies open here and not a lot of  
7 prominent people from the Village are able to work in  
8 the prominent positions that live here. You know,  
9 like a lot of the people that's going to run that  
10 company don't live in Ford Heights. And we need more  
11 prominent people living in the community.

12 So what's your hiring process of  
13 getting the people trained or what they need or what  
14 have you for that?

15 MR. ROSE: Let me address that. Still Ben  
16 Rose. The first point is the company, partially  
17 because of some of the operating issues in the past,  
18 had managers who did not in our view manage the plant  
19 well at all and that was also a contributing factor  
20 to a lot of the comments, a lot of the observations.

21 Would you like me to take the mike?  
22 Now is that better?

23 Now, first point is that Geneva Energy  
24 doesn't operate the facility. We are responsible or

1 the company is the owner. But because of some of the  
2 issues, for the very first time this plant will be  
3 operated by a world-class dedicated and professional  
4 power operations company by the name of the Wood  
5 Group. You can look. It's woodgroup.com if anyone  
6 would like to research it. It's a very large  
7 company. They operate many plants. They are  
8 specialists in power plant operations among other  
9 things.

10 As a result, the most senior  
11 representative of the Wood Group is here. You have  
12 heard from him already, Mr. Jack Jones. I can't  
13 speak to the precise -- Wood Group is responsible  
14 for staffing the plant, has already hired and is in  
15 the process of training people. There are some staff  
16 members, I believe, I know from the Village. And  
17 certainly the majority are from neighboring  
18 communities. Perhaps Jack can elaborate a bit on the  
19 hiring process, if that would be helpful, sir.

20 MR. JACK JONES: Okay. Well, Wood Group  
21 Power Operations has put --

22 Thanks. This is Jack Jones again. Is  
23 that okay?

24 Wood Group Power Operations has, to

1 staff the facility, has had to look for experienced  
2 power plant operators. And we did have to go out of  
3 the area for certain, for certain productions. There  
4 were several positions filled from previous employees  
5 that had experience here. There were positions  
6 filled from employees that had worked on the tire  
7 side, tire shredding side of the facility, that had  
8 been brought into the power plant operations side.

9 So what we are trying to do is bring  
10 the very best people on that can fit into the right  
11 positions. So at this point we are going through  
12 operator training.

13 MR. ROSE: We've had ads.

14 MR. JACK JONES: Yes. We have had many ads  
15 in the Chicago Tribune, paper ads for four weeks over  
16 a period of three months. We also had online ads for  
17 over 90 days in Chicago, Chicago Tribune jobs online,  
18 also in careerbuilder.com.

19 MR. LADELL JONES: Let me rephrase the  
20 question. Of the jobs that you have available, let's  
21 just take your labor jobs, for instance. Out of them  
22 labor jobs, do you know how many of those jobs you  
23 can expect that from the community citizens that  
24 can --

1                   You don't have a number of like maybe  
2   25 percent of 100 percent of the people that work  
3   there from the Village, in the Village itself is what  
4   I'm trying to get at.

5                   MR. JACK JONES: We probably have six, maybe  
6   six people, six out of 20 that are from, from Ford  
7   Heights or have been, were from Ford Heights in the  
8   past.

9                   MR. LADELL JONES: Right.

10                  MR. JACK JONES: And they moved to the area  
11   from another community for whatever reason. We have  
12   certain operators up in at the higher levels that  
13   had -- were Ford Heights residents at one time. They  
14   have, you know, either went up through our company in  
15   the past over the last five years and been promoted  
16   to that level to be qualified for that position. So  
17   we --

18                  MR. GEORGE: Chuck, I would like to ad --  
19   My name is Emmett George, once again. Those jobs  
20   that were posted on the internet and newspaper were  
21   also published with the Village as well.

22                  MR. LADELL JONES: That's probably why we  
23   never got it, the Village.

24                         No. I was just concerned about, you

1 know, you bring a business in our community, it  
2 always seems from everybody else from outside of the  
3 community gets the opportunity. And the position  
4 that you would be probably qualified for and can be  
5 qualified, it's too late because they filled it  
6 already. And I haven't seen a promotion from the  
7 company. And I haven't seen anything probably  
8 because I haven't been on the internet.

9 But as far as the Village putting  
10 things out, we just got this notice in my door today  
11 that they were having this meeting. I mean this is a  
12 very important meeting, you would think the Village  
13 would put it out. I got the posting today on my door  
14 and made it available that I be here. So I was just  
15 concerned about the economic development as far as  
16 people in our community getting a chance to go get  
17 trained and be able to move on. Okay. I appreciate  
18 that.

19 A couple of questions I got left is  
20 just when they said that they was -- the EPA only  
21 comes out maybe once or twice a year, and who will be  
22 monitoring the trailers and as far as the rubber  
23 getting on the concrete, who will be doing the  
24 monitoring of that process? You?

1           MR. GEORGE: I will respond. I'm one of the  
2 developers.

3           MR. LADELL JONES: Okay.

4           MR. GEORGE: And we developed the company  
5 from the basic plant. You know, the operations are  
6 by the Wood Group. We are there every day. And  
7 those conditions you are talking about, we will see  
8 them and can do something about them. You know,  
9 before I was, before we did this project or started  
10 this project, I was on the Board of the American Lung  
11 Association; and I'm still on that board. But I have  
12 concerns about the air being clean, and I will be  
13 here to see it if it's not.

14           MR. LADELL JONES: Okay. Because, you know,  
15 the conditions, and the sincerity of it is about --  
16 Like a fire, if a fire breaks out, our Village is  
17 not -- don't have the capability of really stopping  
18 it with our fire department. I heard someone ask,  
19 well, you are going to buy new fire trucks and all  
20 that.

21                   But the question, will you assist our  
22 Village in helping getting new equipment that can,  
23 you know, probably prevent a fire or help maintain it  
24 to the others, surrounding communities come through?



1                   And I know it's going to be a good  
2    thing for our water. Because you guys are going to  
3    be using -- Do you how many tons of water you will  
4    be using?

5                   MR. ROSE: Not offhand.

6                   MR. LADELL JONES: But it's --

7                   MR. ROSE: It's a lot.

8                   MR. LADELL JONES: You all going to pay the  
9    bill, not like the last -- The last company left a  
10   big bill, didn't pay their water bill. So it could  
11   be good. Economically it should be good, but there  
12   is a lot of concerns that we are concerned with.

13                   And you all see my face, I'm going to come  
14   fill out an application, Jack Jones, Ladell Jones,  
15   that's my brother.

16                   HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
17   Mr. Jones.

18                   The next speaker is Angie Taylor.

19                   MS. TAYLOR: Actually, he asked the  
20   questions I'm going to ask; but one thing is are you  
21   going to hire women in prominent positions other than  
22   administrative work?

23                   HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Would anyone  
24   like to answer that?

1 MR. JACK JONES: Yes. Actually, we do have  
2 women working in the plant in, you know, in operator  
3 positions. So does that answer the question?

4 MS. TAYLOR: I said other than.

5 MR. JACK JONES: Other than. We have, we  
6 have in both positions, females in administrative and  
7 also in the power plant as an operator.

8 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Did you have  
9 more questions?

10 MS. TAYLOR: As far as hiring women, will we  
11 have to have a technical background? Are you going  
12 to just train men?

13 MR. JACK JONES: Well, certain, you know,  
14 certain technical requirements, you know, to be able  
15 to do the job functions, will be required for anyone  
16 that's hired, either male or female.

17 MS. TAYLOR: Will there be some type of  
18 agreement to hire women from the city? Because when  
19 the last factory ran, I didn't see any women in any  
20 prominent positions other than administration.

21 MR. ROSE: The company has a strict policy  
22 of nondiscrimination on any basis. And that's  
23 reflected in the people who are working there, that  
24 will always be reflected in the people who are

1 working there. Women, we would love to have women  
2 apply for any position for which they are qualified.

3 MS. TAYLOR: So we are to believe that you  
4 are going to run differently than they did?

5 MR. ROSE: I promise you it will be  
6 completely different.

7 MS. TAYLOR: I'm just saying then that a lot  
8 of the comments that are made and questions, they are  
9 basically saying you are going to be run the same  
10 way.

11 MR. ROSE: That's their -- Everyone is  
12 entitled to their opinion. I can tell you that this  
13 company will be run very differently from the very  
14 start. We are local people. We are officed -- Our  
15 primary office is at the facility. We have  
16 backgrounds that are quite different than the other  
17 owners, and we have seen the mistakes that other  
18 owners have made; and we have vowed to ourselves and  
19 to the community now and to our partners we will not  
20 make those same mistakes.

21 MS. TAYLOR: And will you be hiring women?  
22 Is it a quota that you have to fill, or are you just  
23 going to be hiring women because as far as equal  
24 opportunity?

1 MR. ROSE: I will just repeat, the company  
2 has a strict policy of nondiscrimination. We want  
3 the best people to work there. The plant has the  
4 best opportunity to help the community and to be  
5 successful and to, obviously, meet all of its  
6 compliance requirements.

7 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Is that -- Any  
8 other questions, ma'am? No?

9 Okay. Thank you, ma'am.

10 Is Dwayne Mitchell here? No?

11 Okay. That's all the listed speakers.  
12 But at this point, anyone who would like to make a  
13 comment or a question, please approach the  
14 microphone. And again, state and spell your name.

15 MR. CARTER: My name is George Carter. I'm  
16 part of Ford Heights Health Partnership. I'm the  
17 cochair, and I just want to echo some of the things  
18 that Mr. Jones said about the notification of this  
19 meeting. One, it was not -- The community was not  
20 notified until today. If you want community  
21 participation in this, it should have been notified  
22 at least a week earlier.

23 My other concern is that the air  
24 quality. And again, to echo what brother Leon said

1 about the pollution and the asthma, the increase in  
2 the asthma rate here in Ford Heights. We did a  
3 health survey, a study, when the power, the other  
4 tire plant was in operation. There were mothers  
5 every night, there were kids that had to take asthma  
6 treatments at least three times a day because of the  
7 tire plant. Every night you can smell the stench in  
8 the air from the smoke stacks, whatever it was, been  
9 opened up and it just fumigated the entire community.

10 Two, have you done a study concerning  
11 the asthma rate here in Ford Heights? Also, have you  
12 done a study on ovarian cancer rate here in Ford  
13 Heights because of the tire plant? Again, in the  
14 health study and the surveys that we did, the cancer  
15 rate has increased here in Ford Heights, the ovarian  
16 cancer, as well as the prostate cancer. And what is  
17 this factory, what are you going to do differently  
18 that's not going to cause that to happen?

19 And also hopefully some members from  
20 our community will be hired here in the plant. We  
21 don't want to, again, suck up all the pollution and  
22 not be able to be employed at the plant. Also, have  
23 you established a board of community and members of  
24 this factory to monitor what goes on? Again, because

1 each time we are left out and we take the brunt or  
2 whatever it is. We know the asthma rate here in  
3 Illinois has gone up. The air quality in Illinois  
4 has gone down, and the air quality in Ford Heights  
5 has gone down as well.

6 So those are my concerns. So  
7 hopefully, members of Ford Heights and the citizens  
8 of Ford Heights will have a part in the operation of  
9 this plant. It won't be like the last one where we  
10 just get the bad news.

11 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
12 Mr. Carter.

13 MR. MC CRARY: My name is Veller McCrary.  
14 I'm from Ford Heights. Now, you have pollution, the  
15 pollution, what time of day or night -- You know, I  
16 work in a factory. But when do you shakedown, what  
17 time? That factory over there before was shaking  
18 down at 12:00, 12:30, 1 o'clock, all the black stuff  
19 was coming out, EPA. Now, what time you going to  
20 shake down? Because you got to shake down the bag.

21 Air pollution bad. It's bad. Are you  
22 going to -- How you going to eliminate that?

23 MR. ERIC JONES: The shakedown of the  
24 baghouse I think.

1 MR. JACK JONES: Our baghouse is being  
2 cleaned on a continuous cycle, probably every, every  
3 30 to 60 minutes continuously or operating. One  
4 compartment is cleaned, and then it switches to the  
5 next compartment, right on -- There is only one time  
6 at night where we do stuff like maybe the shifts or  
7 something get done.

8 MR. MC CRARY: Well, if you shake down,  
9 what, any time all through the 15 or 30 second  
10 wherever he's speaking of, trying to give me a line;  
11 but he shakedown, the stuff goes down. Where does it  
12 go from there?

13 MR. ERIC JONES: It's collected.

14 MR. MC CRARY: Collected into what?

15 MR. JACK JONES: These filter bags are  
16 pulsed the reverse direction, okay. So they are not  
17 sent through to the atmosphere to the stack. They  
18 are sent back down to the ash hopper.

19 MR. MC CRARY: Sir. I have worked in a  
20 factory; and I have worked for 25 years on the same  
21 program you are talking about, speaking of. Now,  
22 when we shake down, I don't care what you say or how  
23 you do it, you going to put pollution out there.

24 MR. JACK JONES: Well, that would show up in

1 our continuous emissions monitoring.

2 MR. ROMAIN: The baghouses at power plants  
3 or the control devices of power plants of this type,  
4 the particulate matter controls are designed with  
5 hoppers that feed directly into enclosed transport  
6 systems that then take the ash to trucks directly  
7 loaded into trucks for disposal. It's not like a  
8 manufacturing facility where you might load into a  
9 drum or you have to have a manual unloading of the  
10 hopper, the baghouse system, given the volume of dust  
11 that's collected and the nature of the facility is  
12 automated.

13 MR. MC CRARY: Yes. Okay. I understand  
14 that so far. But how you got that, you got that  
15 automated down there?

16 MR. ROMAIN: Yes.

17 MR. MC CRARY: Okay. Because I myself and  
18 some more gentlemen, we will be looking at the  
19 baghouse and all the other stuff down there. Okay?

20 MR. ROMAIN: You know where it's at. It's  
21 out in the open.

22 MR. MC CRARY: I know where it's at.

23 MR. ROMAIN: So you can see it. We would  
24 appreciate it.



1 MR. MC CRARY: I've been the one, I've  
2 strung the water around through there, so I know what  
3 I'm looking at.

4 MR. ROMAIN: Okay.

5 MS. KEMP: Is there an 800, a phone number  
6 for him to call if he wants to report something  
7 to you?

8 MR. ROMAIN: We have an 800 number, yes. I  
9 don't have it with me. But --

10 MR. MC CRARY: Oh.

11 MR. ROMAIN: Well, Brad, do you have it?  
12 Brad has it.

13 MR. FROST: The 800 number for the Illinois  
14 Environmental Protection Agency, and it's -- We only  
15 have one 800 number, so it's pretty much for  
16 anything, whether it's complaints or what have you.  
17 It's 1-888-886 -- I believe --

18 A VOICE: Wait.

19 MR. FROST: It's 1996.

20 MS. KEMP: Can you repeat that?

21 MR. FROST: It's 1-886-EPA-1996. I don't  
22 think it's in the Yellow Pages. But if you look at  
23 our web site, it's there. Or I mean certainly if any  
24 of you -- I have my own cards here and I can write

1 the 800 number down on that. But also, if you call,  
2 if you call me on my direct line, and you just tell  
3 me, "I want you to call me back" and give me your  
4 number, I will call you back. So it's a very --

5 I know it's a long distance call; but  
6 it's a very short one. And then I will call you back  
7 so it's on the state's money rather than yours.

8 Because the 800 number that we have is only staffed  
9 during, during business hours. There is an answering  
10 machine, and you can leave -- for afterhours, and you  
11 can leave a message on that.

12 But certainly that's for our whole  
13 Agency and so it's only one person. But if you have  
14 something specific about this plant and you are  
15 calling me, then I'm going to have a little more  
16 knowledge than just someone, a secretary that's  
17 sitting there answering the phone for the whole  
18 agency.

19 MS. KEMP: What is your name?

20 MR. FROST: It's Brad Frost. And I'm in our  
21 Office of Community Relations. And my phone, direct  
22 phone number is 217-782-7027. And I have business  
23 cards if anyone wants one.

24 A Voice: Will our concerns be taken

1 seriously, or will they just be dismissed?

2 MR. FROST: No, of course, complaints about  
3 a facility are taken very seriously and are always  
4 followed up by our staff and our field inspectors.

5 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay, ma'am.

6 MS. SAUNDERS: My name is Lazette Saunders.  
7 I'm a resident and a member of Deer Creek Estates,  
8 which is right down the street on Cottage Grove; and  
9 I just have a couple of questions that will be  
10 directed both to the EPA and to Geneva.

11 The first question is what other  
12 communities that are similar to ours have a plant  
13 like this that's located very close to schools and  
14 residents? Are there other communities out there  
15 that have plants like this?

16 MR. ERIC JONES: This is the only tire plant  
17 in the state.

18 MR. ROSE: I mean the Sterling plant at  
19 Exeter is right in the village of -- that it's  
20 located in, right in the center of a village in  
21 Connecticut. That's the only other large-scale tire  
22 burner.

23 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay. And just to piggyback  
24 on that, and I don't know, maybe you can answer this

1 question. In reference to that community, that's --  
2 I mean that tire burning plant that's in Connecticut,  
3 have there been studies done that show long-term  
4 effects of exposure to zinc and other hazardous  
5 material in that area?

6 MR. ERIC JONES: You would have to contact  
7 the Connecticut EPA on that one and either that or  
8 the company itself.

9 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay. And also, in reference  
10 to what another gentleman said, in reference to the  
11 fumes, we will be able to see and smell the fumes  
12 coming from this facility?

13 MR. ROMAIN: No. That's why it's important  
14 that the facility be equipped with continuous  
15 monitors in the stack to measure the levels of the  
16 key contaminants that are left after the control  
17 devices. Is that a no?

18 A VOICE: You can't see or smell it?

19 MR. ROMAIN: You should not be able to see  
20 or smell.

21 A VOICE: The most dangerous pollutants are  
22 ones that the human eyes and ears and noses can't do  
23 anything about it.

24 (Multiple voices.)

1 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Just one at a  
2 time for the court reporter.

3 MR. ROMAIN: That's why there are  
4 continuous monitors in the stack to measure what  
5 humans can't sense.

6 MS. SAUNDERS: And this question -- I should  
7 turn this way -- is probably going to be directed to  
8 Geneva. Would you let this type of tire burning  
9 plant in your community or neighborhood?

10 Anyone can answer.

11 MR. JACK JONES: I'm a resident of Steger.  
12 I'm less than two miles away for six years.

13 A VOICE: So why did you pick this area?

14 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Again, please,  
15 just --

16 MS. SAUNDERS: This is the last and final  
17 question.

18 A VOICE: I'm sorry. Was that an answer?

19 MS. SAUNDERS: He says he lives in Steger.

20 A VOICE: There are a lot of other people  
21 besides him.

22 MR. BROWN: I live in Chicago in the heart  
23 of it, not downtown but in the neighborhood.

24 MS. SAUNDERS: But would you allow this type

1 of facility to be right next door in your  
2 neighborhood in your back yard with children?

3 MR. BROWN: My name is Matt Brown again, and  
4 I will respond to that. If things have the proper  
5 controls on them and the continuous emission  
6 monitoring systems are functioning, then I don't have  
7 a concern. I mean I have lived in Chicago since  
8 1968. And our, you know, our air quality has gone up  
9 and gone down. All right.

10 And it is now I believe better than  
11 it's been in a long time. But I am aware that the  
12 asthma rates, the recorded asthma rates in Chicago  
13 and certainly in this community in this area have  
14 been going up. I suffer from asthma. I know that  
15 there is a lot of other factors that are involved  
16 other than strictly what will be emitted from this  
17 plant with the controls that are on it.

18 MS. SAUNDERS: Last question. Is this a  
19 done deal? What difference does it make as to why we  
20 are here tonight? Is this a final deal, or are we  
21 just here like wasting time?

22 MR. ROMAIN: It is not a done deal. It is  
23 an existing facility. Certainly there is a strong  
24 precedent there for it to be allowed to get some form

1 of permit. But the comments that have been made  
2 tonight can certainly affect the nature of that  
3 permit. Conceivably comments could be raised that  
4 require us to rethink our approach to it and decide  
5 that at this time the proposal is not adequate.

6 MS. SAUNDERS: Can, can this whole thing be  
7 stopped in any way?

8 MR. ROMAIN: Well, the thing to remember is  
9 that we are looking at environmental laws and  
10 regulations. The question here is does the plans put  
11 forward by Geneva give a reasonable expectation of  
12 compliance with the applicable laws and requirements  
13 that govern emissions.

14 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay. So then, I apologize,  
15 I know I said that was the last question; but will --  
16 In the event that these comments that were raised  
17 tonight and all these issues and concerns, will we be  
18 meeting again?

19 MR. ROMAIN: No. But we will be  
20 distributing a Responsiveness Summary that explains  
21 how we have listened to each of the comments,  
22 addressed it either with a written explanation or in  
23 some cases by changing particular provisions in the  
24 permit that has been issued.

1 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay.

2 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: I'm sorry,  
3 please approach the --

4 MR. ROMAIN: The question that was asked  
5 was how would that Responsiveness Summary be  
6 distributed. The Responsiveness Summary will be  
7 mailed directly to individuals who filled out that  
8 registration card. That's why it's very important  
9 that people complete a registration card and turn it  
10 in even if they have not decided to make any comments  
11 tonight.

12 MR. BROWN: Good evening. My name is Roy  
13 Brown. I am also with Deer Creek Estates. Also I'm  
14 a home owner, associated member. I would like to  
15 find out why did they close the plant in the  
16 beginning?

17 MR. ERIC JONES: They had a failure with the  
18 turbine and required extensive repair that the  
19 previous owner decided to close the plant.

20 MR. BROWN: So it didn't have anything to do  
21 with the EPA at all?

22 MR. ERIC JONES: No.

23 MR. BROWN: Okay. And we are here because  
24 just for permits? That's right?



1 MR. ERIC JONES: That's correct.

2 MR. BROWN: Okay. What is the -- Okay.

3 This produces electricity for who, the manufacturers  
4 of Ford or Ford Heights?

5 MR. ERIC JONES: I believe it's to the grid.

6 MR. BROWN: It's grid for who?

7 MR. ROMAINE: The area.

8 MR. BROWN: To ComEd. There is nothing else  
9 that they can do, I mean burning tires? Is this, you  
10 know, is this like 2005 technology?

11 MR. ERIC JONES: There are updating the  
12 controls, the CEMS on the system, to the most current  
13 technology; and monitoring of the operations is also  
14 being updated to the most current technology.

15 MR. BROWN: Now, I understand that they have  
16 plants in Connecticut.

17 MR. ERIC JONES: They do not, no.

18 MR. BROWN: Do you have other plants?

19 MR. ROSE: This is our --

20 MR. BROWN: This is your first plant. Do  
21 you think this is kind of immoral? I mean, come on,  
22 you got kids here. You want to start up something  
23 like this?

24 MR. ROSE: That's a judgment I don't think

1 is appropriate for this hearing.

2 MR. BROWN: Okay. Also, we have the corn  
3 belt. People, you know, growing things, you got to  
4 eat this.

5 MR. ROSE: I will say that our research has  
6 shown that this plant properly run, which we will do,  
7 is the cleanest, lowest polluting solid fuel facility  
8 in the state of Illinois.

9 MR. BROWN: Okay. This is a closed  
10 facility?

11 MR. ROSE: Sorry?

12 MR. BROWN: This is a closed environment  
13 facility. In other words, like it won't give out any  
14 type of byproducts whatsoever into the atmosphere?

15 MR. ROSE: That's --

16 MR. ERIC JONES: There are emissions from  
17 the plant that are addressed in the permit. Metals,  
18 some metals are emitted, gaseous compounds, nitrogen  
19 oxide, sulfur dioxide, VOMs. They are all -- We  
20 have limits for several components of the exhaust  
21 stream to maintain emissions as low as possible.

22 MR. BROWN: Has any other manufacturers  
23 produced anything like this that goes up in the air  
24 like the Ford plant?

1 MR. ROMAIN: There are certainly other  
2 manufacturing facilities in this area that have  
3 emissions. They have different emissions given the  
4 nature of their operations. They burn fuels. They  
5 emit solvents, some of them emit heavy metals. We  
6 have a glass furnace. We have chemical plants. So  
7 this is simply another manufacturing facility in that  
8 sense, it is.

9 MR. BROWN: But this is a little bit  
10 different. This is by schools and by homes.

11 MR. ROMAIN: This facility is more similar  
12 to a coal-fired power plant because it's burning fuel  
13 to make electricity. The purpose of permitting is to  
14 make sure that facilities do have the proper emission  
15 controls, are being run with the proper emission  
16 monitoring, are subject to appropriate operating  
17 requirements.

18 MR. BROWN: Sounds like a done deal. Thank  
19 you.

20 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Brown.

22 Is there anyone else who would like to  
23 make a comment or ask a question?

24 MS. SANDOVAL: I have a question. My name

1 is Carman Sandoval. I also live in Deer Creek  
2 Estates. I have lived there for like four years. I  
3 came from the city, lived there for 50 years. And  
4 the pollution is bad over there. And that's why I  
5 came over here. I just don't understand why they are  
6 going to do it here versus where any, any one of them  
7 live. So far all we heard was Chicago and Steger.  
8 Why was our area picked?

9 MR. ROMAIN: Thank you for your comment.

10 MS. SANDOVAL: No answer?

11 MR. ROMAIN: The Illinois EPA does not  
12 select the sites of new facilities. Our job is to  
13 review proposals and assure that they comply with  
14 applicable requirements, that they are properly  
15 controlled.

16 MR. DIERINGER: Charles Dieringer, Chicago  
17 Heights. I'm out in the environment frequently along  
18 the streams and that. And after a recent storm, I  
19 went over here on State Street. You were just  
20 referring to all the industrial sites along Chicago  
21 Heights. Air moves from the west to the east. And  
22 you are getting a heavy dose of what's coming from  
23 what he was just talking about earlier.

24 And I think that 800 number would

1 really behoove you when you see the clouds of smoke.  
2 We recently had a rain, well, three or four weeks ago  
3 and on a Saturday morning you could see the blue sky  
4 but you could see the cloud coming off of State  
5 Street over there. It was virtually blocking out the  
6 sky.

7 I don't know if our industry burns  
8 things intentionally during storms. But whatever,  
9 it's very noticeable after the air is really cleaned  
10 out after a rainstorm. And I really think we just  
11 have to communicate more and work together to solve  
12 these problems. And hopefully, that 800 number would  
13 help. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you.

15 MR. FROST: Let me make one quick comment to  
16 clarify on that. If you call our 800 number, that  
17 goes down to Springfield. You can also make a  
18 complaint we have -- We have an electronic complaint  
19 form online. You make that online. Or you can also,  
20 the most direct route, is to call directly to our  
21 field office in Des Plaines. And I can give you the  
22 number. The number for our Des Plaines field office  
23 is 847-294-4000.

24 A VOICE: Say that again.

1 MR. FROST: 847-294-4000.

2 A VOICE: Thank you.

3 MR. FROST: And that's -- If you call me or  
4 you call our 800 number or you fill out that  
5 electronic form online, what we do is we take down  
6 the complaint; and then we call the field office in  
7 Des Plaines, and then they send someone out.

8 So you can do that directly, too. You  
9 can just call the field office directly. Any of  
10 those ways. Or you can write out a letter and send  
11 it to us. Obviously, that does not happen as quick  
12 of a turnaround because as the mail but certainly  
13 there are a lot of different ways, hopefully, for you  
14 guys to make comments or as far as making complaints.

15 MR. BURGESS: Hi. I'm Derek Burgess. I was  
16 up here earlier. I do have a couple of concerns and  
17 a couple of questions for Geneva. I heard a  
18 gentleman ask about qualifications and what they  
19 would have to have as far as work for Geneva. I'm an  
20 engineer. I also work at a power plant in Chicago.

21 What I need to find out from EPA, how  
22 many violations will they allow the plant to have  
23 within a month or a time period before they shut them  
24 down?

1                   Now, you did say that they had an  
2     emergency generator in case the main boiler goes  
3     down, which does emit diesel fuel. I don't know how  
4     much diesel fuel you guys use, six; or is it  
5     low-sulfur diesel fuel? I don't know. Is it low  
6     sulfur?

7                   MR. ROSE: Yes.

8                   MR. BURGESS: Okay. But that still does  
9     pollute. And I was just wondering how long, how many  
10    different times would this emergency generator,  
11    because with such close proximity to schools, that  
12    there is nothing there to -- this is not going to go  
13    through the scrubber, this is just going to be a  
14    backup.

15                  MR. ERIC JONES: First of all, the generator  
16    is not there for when the scrubber goes down. It is  
17    for when power is interrupted to the facility. And  
18    they will operate to supply power to the facility so  
19    they are not involved in a shutdown.

20                  MR. BURGESS: Okay. But now while this  
21    generator is producing electricity or whatever for  
22    the facility, it's still polluting in the air, and  
23    you said it was going to run only 120 hours?

24                  MR. ERIC JONES: Each engine is allowed 100

1 hours operation.

2 MR. BURGESS: Operation, okay. Now, if it  
3 exceeds that for whatever reason, is there someone  
4 there to monitor that; or are you just taking their  
5 word?

6 MR. ERIC JONES: They have to maintain logs  
7 of hours of operation on the unit.

8 MR. BURGESS: Okay. These logs, are you  
9 saying they are books now? You also said they are a  
10 monitoring device. That monitoring device that you  
11 are going to have in place for EPA monitoring, is it  
12 going to be hooked up to your office, or something  
13 that you are going to come in and read, or they have  
14 to send the data to you?

15 MR. ERIC JONES: It's something that's  
16 recorded at the facility and maintained at the  
17 facility.

18 MR. BURGESS: Maintained at the facility.  
19 In other words, you have to come there?

20 MR. ROMAINE: And they also have to send  
21 copies of the data to us.

22 MR. BURGESS: Okay. They send copies from  
23 the machine itself. So in other words, you have no  
24 monitoring device at your offices or anything. There



1 is not a clearing house --

2 MR. ERIC JONES: Direct connection.

3 MR. BURGESS: Correct.

4 MR. ERIC JONES: No.

5 MR. BURGESS: Okay. Okay. And also  
6 irregardless of what we are doing here today, I would  
7 just like to address these gentlemen here. There was  
8 a lot of questions asked about this being in your  
9 neighborhood per se of the people here from Geneva.  
10 We understand why it's here. Economics is why it's  
11 here. We understand that.

12 We are just asking you to be  
13 conscientious in what you are actually doing to the  
14 neighborhood and what potential. When you are  
15 talking about 1100 psi, that's pounds per square inch  
16 locked in a box with 950-degree temperature, that's a  
17 bomb waiting to --

18 MR. BROWN: Can I respond to that?

19 MR. BURGESS: Go ahead.

20 MR. BROWN: Maybe with some history. There  
21 was a time in this country when boilers used to blow  
22 up regularly and kill all kinds of people, on the  
23 steam boats --

24 MR. BURGESS: Yeah.

1 MR. BROWN: Okay. -- in the larger fancier  
2 hotels that had steam heating and that kind of thing.  
3 And as a result of that, the American Society of  
4 Mechanical Engineers was established and one of the  
5 fundamental things that came out of that society is  
6 the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. Okay? Which is  
7 not only now an ASME voluntary code, it's an American  
8 National Standard. In order for that boiler to  
9 qualify, it has to have safety relief valves to  
10 prevent this. Okay.

11 MR. BURGESS: How many will this one have?

12 MR. BROWN: Well, I don't know the number  
13 off the top of my head; but it's required by code.

14 MR. BURGESS: This is high pressure steam,  
15 so you are talking about at least two?

16 MR. BROWN: I would suspect there is more.

17 MR. BURGESS: At least two. This is high  
18 pressure. You are talking about at least two that's  
19 directly emitted to the atmosphere, correct?

20 MR. BROWN: Yes.

21 MR. JACK JONES: Yes, of steam if needed.  
22 We have throughout the whole system at least eight.

23 MR. BURGESS: You just have one. How many  
24 boilers per se do you have? How many steam --

1 MR. JACK JONES: One.

2 MR. BURGESS: One boiler and one turbine?

3 MR. JACK JONES: Correct.

4 MR. BURGESS: And you are producing  
5 24 megawatts of power per hour, correct? So that's  
6 not really a large, large plant.

7 MR. JACK JONES: Right.

8 MR. BURGESS: Basically you are using waste  
9 or tires to produce the 24 megawatts, and you sell  
10 that on the grid.

11 Okay. I just wanted it to come out,  
12 people didn't know that, and I just wanted to point  
13 that out because they don't understand 24 megawatts  
14 is a lot, but it's not a whole lot. There will be  
15 money made on it, but they are making the money  
16 because they don't have to use natural gas or fuel  
17 oil as a fuel. They use tires. But it's just a  
18 concern of the tire toxins from the tires, tires  
19 being stored. They said there is going to be whole  
20 tires versus shredded tires. But your proposal says  
21 that your system is set up for both. So if it's set  
22 up for both, you will probably use both.

23 So I'm just hoping that we get a chance  
24 to as residents and as concerned citizens, have a

1 chance to view your facility, if you guys could, you  
2 know, let us know something in Deer Creek, also in  
3 Ford Heights, to let us know prior to you starting up  
4 for us to view and have a little more educated view  
5 on what's going on when we actually come there. I  
6 would appreciate if someone could send us something.  
7 Yes.

8 MR. GEORGE: I don't know if you have a copy  
9 of the notice that was distributed today, but that  
10 has a telephone number where you can call us. And to  
11 the extent that we can answer any other questions  
12 about how we are operating, we will do that.

13 MR. BURGESS: Okay. Right. Maybe I should  
14 ask you. When can we -- Can we come, is there --  
15 I mean you guys haven't gotten your permit yet so you  
16 aren't ready to go on-line, you haven't received your  
17 tires; but we are trying to find out when are you  
18 ready?

19 Can we leave our number with you so you  
20 can contact us let us know when you are online or  
21 getting ready to go online so we can view and  
22 actually first-hand see the process? And maybe  
23 better, you know, maybe, like I said, maybe better  
24 understood, actually see what's going on, and see how

1 the different --

2 MR. GEORGE: You certainly can do that.

3 MR. BURGESS: Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Okay. Thank  
5 you, sir.

6 MR. NORWOOD: Leon Norwood, South Suburban  
7 Citizens Opposed to Pollute your Environment.

8 This is to the company: What's your  
9 host agreement with the city?

10 MR. ROSE: Sorry? I didn't understand.

11 MR. NORWOOD: What's your host agreement  
12 with the city?

13 MS. STEINHOOR: There is no --

14 MR. NORWOOD: What's the benefits? Or what  
15 are they going to get from you all? Is you going to  
16 help them with their water problem, whatever? What's  
17 the host agreement?

18 MR. ROSE: There is no host agreement. This  
19 is a --

20 MR. NORWOOD: No benefits to the city at  
21 all?

22 MR. ROSE: No. There are clearly benefits  
23 to the Village.

24 MR. NORWOOD: What is it?

1           MR. ROSE: I think it's better directed to  
2 the Village officials, who strongly support the  
3 facility reopening.

4           MR. NORWOOD: Okay.

5           MR. ROSE: I would guess they would indicate  
6 returning a closed plant to productive use.

7           MR. NORWOOD: Right.

8           MR. ROSE: And taxpayer status. Employment  
9 opportunities, secondary economic development, and  
10 water use.

11          MR. NORWOOD: Okay.

12          MR. ROSE: I believe we are the largest  
13 purchaser of water in the Village.

14          MR. NORWOOD: Oh, that's true. That's true.

15          MS. STEINHOOR: You will also have an  
16 advantage from the facility being there in the trucks  
17 coming in and out that are getting services from  
18 other businesses within the community purchasing gas,  
19 buying groceries or food, or whatever.

20          MR. NORWOOD: Okay. Are you going to help  
21 bring any big grocery stores in the area, grocery  
22 store chains or anything?

23          MR. ROSE: Hadn't thought about it. But we  
24 would be happy to talk to you about it.

1 MR. NORWOOD: Yes. That would be great.

2 MR. ROSE: We are sincerely interested in  
3 developing this area and assisting in any way.

4 MR. NORWOOD: Are you all going to use the  
5 railroad system, too?

6 MR. ROSE: Sorry?

7 MR. NORWOOD: Railroad system because the  
8 tracks is right there.

9 MR. ROSE: We have no plans. We have no  
10 plans to move any. Can you hear me? The question  
11 was about whether we are going to use rail as a  
12 transport mechanism. We don't currently have any  
13 more plans to. We are learning more about it.

14 MR. NORWOOD: Right.

15 MR. ROSE: We only recently learned who the  
16 line belonged to.

17 MR. NORWOOD: See, the railroad tracks in  
18 Ford Heights run from the east coast to the west  
19 coast period. And you got the expressway right here.  
20 And you got the railroad tracks in Chicago Heights  
21 that's connected to the railroad tracks run from  
22 Canada to Mississippi, the crossroads of the nation  
23 is sitting right here.

24 So you've got a big advantage here.

1 That's when I say what's the host agreement because  
2 there is a lot of advantage for your company being  
3 here. And the Village of Ford Heights and the  
4 citizens should benefit from it. Okay?

5 MR. ROSE: Absolutely.

6 MR. NORWOOD: Okay.

7 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
8 Mr. Norwood.

9 Are there any other questions or  
10 comments?

11 MS. BURGESS: My name is Juanita Burgess.  
12 And I have one question for EPA. The United States  
13 has a huge massive square footage of land that is  
14 uninhabited. I don't understand how EPA allows these  
15 types of businesses to be hosted in lived-in  
16 communities. If you go downstate, take I-57, head  
17 straight south, there is nothing for miles and miles.  
18 And yet, I don't understand why these types of  
19 businesses have to be in lived-in communities.  
20 That's my question.

21 MR. ROMAINE: Do you have a response or --

22 MR. ERIC JONES: The Illinois EPA does not  
23 have any authority over locations of plants. The  
24 company proposed a location of the plant. Based on



1 where there are at, we review rules and regulations  
2 based on that location; and it's the facility must  
3 comply with those rules.

4 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Are there any  
5 additional questions or comments?

6 MS. COULTER: Good evening, gentlemen and  
7 ladies. My name is Annie Coulter. And I have been a  
8 resident of Ford Heights for the past 32 years or  
9 more. I have noticed different changes at different  
10 plants from Chicago Heights. Like I said, especially  
11 when that first plant got out there years ago, this  
12 auditorium was really packed about the people didn't  
13 really want it. And after, even though we at Ford  
14 Heights residents didn't approve it, we noticed the  
15 changes of the effect that it brought on the health  
16 of the people.

17 And someone mentioned about why the  
18 plant closing. But one of the reasons why it closed  
19 because they left Ford Heights with over a 140,000  
20 water bill debt. That was one of the reasons they  
21 filed bankruptcy. And I just want to hope this  
22 Geneva keep a close account. I don't know how in the  
23 world a water bill can get that damn high. And we at  
24 the Villages, the citizens is suffering, we are

1 taking the burden of this water we just got, that the  
2 congressmen help us got through, for many years we  
3 had bad water out here. And I just, you know, like I  
4 said, we just want to make sure they can cover their  
5 end on the burden of the water that we will be placed  
6 on us. Because when that plant was on before, it  
7 affected our water level, we can hardly wash  
8 sometime. So that's, you know, that's another thing  
9 we need to put in consideration of all the water that  
10 will be used and at what level.

11 If we have a fire, will we have an  
12 enough to put out our fire? And if they do, are they  
13 going to call the surrounding villages to help them  
14 out? And since we talking about terrorist attack or  
15 whatever, what's their backup plan if anything was to  
16 happen in this community because Leon made a very  
17 important point about the railroad.

18 All, you know, stuff that be traveling  
19 through here, so do Geneva, do you all have a back-up  
20 plan for Ford Heights in the event something terrible  
21 was to come out and happen since we have kids and  
22 everything in the Village?

23 MR. GEORGE: There are emergency plans.  
24 They actually are reviewed by the state, and we

1 are -- They will be in place before we operate.

2 MS. COULTER: Well, as a member of the  
3 zoning board, would you bring it to us?

4 MR. GEORGE: I will bring it to you.

5 MS. COULTER: At the next zoning board  
6 meeting. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER MATOESIAN: Thank you,  
8 Miss Coulter.

9 Do we have any additional comments or  
10 questions?

11 All right. Then I will adjourn this  
12 hearing. Thank you all for coming. And once again,  
13 you may postmark comments by midnight, October 7.  
14 Thank you and good night.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS )

) SS.

COUNTY OF DU PAGE )

I, JANICE H. HEINEMANN, CSR, RDR, CRR,  
do hereby certify that I am a court reporter doing  
business in the State of Illinois, that I reported in  
shorthand the testimony given at the hearing of said  
cause, and that the foregoing is a true and correct  
transcript of my shorthand notes so taken as  
aforesaid.

Janice H. Heinemann CSR, RDR, CRR  
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